

KNTV/NBC Bay Area

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

Fourth Quarter 2009

October 31, 2009 to December 31, 2009

KNTV/NBC BAY AREA is responsive to the principal issues arising in its community through regularly scheduled public affairs programming, newscasts, public service announcements as well as documentaries and specials. The following is a list of some of the programs that have provided the station's most significant treatment of community issues during the preceding three-month period.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THE ALTAMONT COMMUTER EXPRESS IS CUTTING ONE OF ITS DAILY FOUR COMMUTER RUNS FROM STOCKTON TO SAN JOSE. AT A SPECIAL MEETING THIS MORNING IN STOCKTON, THE SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION SUSPENDED THE MIDDAY TRAIN. THAT TRAIN LEAVES STOCKTON AROUND 9-30 IN THE MORNING - AND ONLY TAKES ON ABOUT 50-RIDERS EACH WAY. ACE BLAMES THE CURRENT ECONOMY AND UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE DROPOFF IN RIDERSHIP. THE MIDDAY TRAIN WILL END ITS RUN NOVEMBER SECOND.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED SOME BIG CHANGES IN STORE AT THE SAN FRANCISCO S-P-C-A. THE OFFICES WERE CLOSED YESTERDAY. THEY REOPENED TODAY BUT WITHOUT ALL OF THE SERVICES ONCE AVAILABLE. THE S-P-C-A'S INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ACADEMY FOR DOG TRAINERS IS BEING SHUT DOWN. IT HAD INSTRUCTED ANIMAL TRAINERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD. FINANCIAL WOES AND THE ECONOMY PLAYED A PART IN ENDING THE PROGRAM. TWO INSTRUCTORS AFFECTED BY THE PROGRAM'S DEMISE WILL WORK TO DEVELOP A NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AT THE S-P-C-A.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/6/09 REPORTED WHEN NEIMAN MARCUS RAISED THE CURTAIN ON THE LUXURY ITEMS IN THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE, IT WAS LIKE SAYING "WHAT RECESSION?" A SPORTS-PLANE - -WITH FOLDING WINGS-- IS THE PRICIEST GIFT, AT A QUARTER-MILLION DOLLARS. FOR 20-THOUSAND DOLLARS, YOU CAN BUY AN EXTRAVAGANT WINE AND ART EXPERIENCE AT A NAPA VALLEY VINEYARD. AND FOR 12-THOUSAND DOLLARS, YOU CAN DO YOUR SIPPING UNDER AN ECO-FRIENDLY CHANDELIER, MADE FROM HUNDREDS OF PLASTIC BOTTLES. NEIMAN'S DID SHINK THIS YEAR'S PRICES-- MORE THAN HALF THE CATALOGUE GIFTS ARE UNDER 250-DOLLARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/9/09 REPORTED EARNINGS ARE UP AT SAN RAMON-BASED CHEVRON. THE NATION'S SECOND LARGEST OIL COMPANY EXPECTS THIRD QUARTER EARNINGS TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE SECOND QUARTER BECAUSE OF HIGHER OIL PRICES. NO NUMBERS FROM CHEVRON BUT ANALYSTS EXPECT IT EQUALS 46-BILLION DOLLARS IN REVENUES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/9/09 REPORTED GENERAL MOTORS HAS SOLD ITS ICONIC HUMMER BRAND TO A CHINESE EQUIPMENT MAKER.

SICHUAN TENGZHONG, A HEAVY INDUSTRIAL MACHINE MAKER, IS BUYING 80-PERCENT OF HUMMER. THE REMAINING 20 PERCENT IS GOING TO A PRIVATE BUSINESSMAN. SOURCES SAY G-M WAS PAID 150-MILLION DOLLARS. HUMMER'S HEADQUARTERS WILL MOST LIKELY REMAIN IN THE U-S, SOMEWHERE NEAR DETROIT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/3/09 REPORTED THAT PEET'S COFFEE, BASED IN EMERYVILLE, IS EXPANDING. THE CHAIN SAYS IT WILL BUY DIEDRICH'S COFFEE FOR 212 MILLION DOLLARS. PEET'S HAS BEEN ON FIRE LATELY -- IT'S STOCK PRICE CLOSED TODAY AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/3/09 REPORTED THE U.S. AUTO INDUSTRY IS MAKING A COMEBACK, LEADING SOME CAR MAKERS TO BELIEVE THE WORST MAY BE OVER. SALES FOR U-S AUTOMAKERS IN OCTOBER REVEALED POSITIVE SIGNS AMERICANS ARE BUYING AGAIN, FOLLOWING A CASH-FOR-CLUNKERS HANGOVER THAT STALLED SEPTEMBER PROFITS. GENERAL MOTORS POSTED ITS FIRST SALES GAIN IN MORE THAN A YEAR -- UP 4-POINT-7 PERCENT IN OCTOBER FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. IT COMES A DAY AFTER FORD MOTOR COMPANY REPORTED A THREE PERCENT JUMP IN ITS OCTOBER SALES. IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY FOR CHRYSLER, THOUGH. SALES TUMBLED 30-PERCENT LAST MONTH COMPARED TO A YEAR AGO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/9/09 REPORTED THAT GOOGLE SHARES HIT THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL IN A YEAR TODAY, AS THE COMPANY'S BUYING SPREE CONTINUES. THE MOUNTAIN VIEW SEARCH GIANT SAYS IT WILL BUY MOBILE ADVERTISING START-UP "AD MOB" FOR 750 MILLION DOLLARS; THIS SHOULD HELP GOOGLE'S ADS GET ONTO MORE CELL PHONES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/9/09 REPORTED THAT THE RECESSION IS STILL HITTING THE VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY HARD. SILICON VALLEY GAME PUBLISHER ELECTRONIC ARTS SAYS IT WILL LAY OFF 15-HUNDRED EMPLOYEES -- THAT'S 17 PERCENT OF ITS WORKFORCE. E-A SAYS IT LOST MONEY OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS. THE CUTS ANNOUNCED TODAY COME ON TOP OF ELEVEN HUNDRED JOB CUTS ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS YEAR. WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE INTERESTING THAT EA SAYS IT WILL SPEND 275 MILLION DOLLARS TO BUY A SMALLER COMPANY. PLAYFISH DOESN'T MAKE THE BIG EXPENSIVE VIDEO GAMES E-A IS KNOWN FOR; THEY MAKE SMALL, INEXPENSIVE, PORTABLE "SOCIAL" GAMES, AND THESE DAYS, THAT'S WHERE THE ACTION IS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/10/09 REPORTED THAT WILKES BASHFORD - THE EXCLUSIVE SUTTER STREET CLOTHIER HAS FILED FOR CHAPTER-11 BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION. THE STORE HAS BEEN STRUGGLING SINCE THE ECONOMIC MELTDOWN. THE FILING COMES A LITTLE MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER THE COMPANY ABRUPTLY CLOSED ITS SATELLITE STORES IN MILL VALLEY AND CARMEL. BASHFORD OPENED THE DOORS TO HIS LUXURY MENSWEAR STORE IN DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1966. THE STORE HAS LONG DRESSED SOME OF SAN FRANCISCO'S MORE WELL KNOWN BON VIVANTS, FORMER MAYOR WILLIE BROWN BEING ONE OF THEM. THE STORE SPECIALIZES IN SUITS THAT RUN AS HIGH AS \$4,000.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/11/09 REPORTED THAT BAY AREA STORES ARE MAKING BIG CHANGES FOR THE MOST FAMOUS SHOPPING DAY OF THE YEAR...."BLACK FRIDAY". THEY ARE PLANNING TO USE ADDITIONAL WORKERS AND OPEN EARLY TO KEEP SHOPPERS SAFE ON THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING. THE NEW SECURITY CHANGES COME AFTER A WORKER WAS TRAMPLED TO DEATH IN A SHOPPING FRENZY AT WALMART LAST YEAR. THE NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION ALSO PUBLISHED A SET OF GUIDELINES TO ASSIST WITH CROWD CONTROL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/12/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA IS LOOKING FOR IDEAS TO GET AMERICANS BACK TO WORK. THE WHITE HOUSE WILL HOST A SUMMIT NEXT MONTH TO ADDRESS CHRONIC JOBLESSNESS, AND WITH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HIGHER THAN TEN PERCENT, THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE'S OPEN TO ANY GOOD IDEAS. EXPERTS FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WILL BE INVITED TO GIVE THEIR INPUT ON HOW TO CREATE JOBS. WHILE FEWER AMERICANS FILED FOR BENEFITS LAST WEEK, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WON'T PEAK UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/3/09 REPORTED THAT HERE IN THE BAY AREA, THERE'S A BRIGHT SPOT IN THE ECONOMIC PICTURE. BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IS UP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO-YEARS. THE BAY AREA COUNCIL SURVEYS NEARLY FIVE HUNDRED BUSINESSES EACH QUARTER, AND SAYS ITS INDEX FOR NOVEMBER ROSE TO 53. ANYTHING OVER 50 IS POSITIVE TERRITORY, BUT THE INDEX HASN'T BEEN POSITIVE SINCE THE SUMMER OF 2007, WHEN THE INDEX NUMBER WAS 54; BY THE SUMMER OF 2009 IT DIPPED TO 47. WHILE THERE IS OPTIMISM, THE SURVEY SUGGESTS THE LABOR MARKET IS STILL WEAK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/4/09 REPORTED AN ANGRY CROWD GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE MAIN BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE TODAY. THE COMMUNITY GROUP "PACT" IS ISSUING WHAT IT CALLS A NOTICE OF DEFAULT. THEY SAY THE BANK NEEDS TO SLOW DOWN ITS FORECLOSURE OF HOMES NATION-WIDE, BUT ESPECIALLY IN EAST SAN JOSE -- WHERE ONE-IN-ELEVEN HOMES IS LOST. THE GROUP DEMANDS THE BANK CONDUCT MORE LOAN MODIFICATIONS TO SLOW FORECLOSURES -- AND CLAIMS B-OF-A HAS ONLY MODIFIED LOANS FOR 14 PERCENT OF APPLICANTS. B-OF-A SAYS WITH THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT HAS HELPED MORE THAN 600-THOUSAND PEOPLE WITH LOAN MODIFICATIONS SINCE 2008, AND ANOTHER 450-THOUSAND WITH ITS OWN PROGRAMS. THE BANK ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO CALL IF THEY FEEL THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR PAYMENTS. SEVERAL PEOPLE AT TODAY'S RALLY CLOSED THEIR ACCOUNTS WITH B-OF-A, TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ANGER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/10/09 REPORTED THAT THE *DOLLAR MENU* IS WORKING SO WELL FOR MCDONALD'S, THE HAMBURGER CHAIN IS EXPANDING IT TO BREAKFAST HOURS. MARKET RESEARCH SHOWS THE RECESSION IS HITTING FAST FOOD CHAINS RIGHT IN THEIR BREAKFAST MENUS. WITH SO MANY PEOPLE OUT OF WORK, MCDONALD'S RIVALS ARE SEEING FEWER CUSTOMERS DROP-BY FOR MORNING COFFEE AND A SAUSAGE BISCUIT. WITH BURGER KING AND DUNKIN DONUTS ADDING 99-CENT BREAKFAST ITEMS, MCDONALD'S WAS BOUND TO DO THE SAME.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/14/09 REPORTED THE BAY AREA'S BIGGEST BANK SAYS IT WILL PAY ITS DEBT TO THE GOVERNMENT. WELLS FARGO TODAY SAYS IT WILL SELL STOCK, AS PART OF A PLAN TO PAY BACK THE 25 BILLION DOLLARS IN BAILOUT FUNDS IT RECEIVED AS PART OF THE "TARP" PLAN. THE ANNOUNCEMENT COMES AFTER BANKING GIANTS CITIGROUP AND BANK OF AMERICA SAY THEY, TOO, WILL PAY BACK THE MONEY THEY OWE THE GOVERNMENT. NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/14/09 REPORTED PRESIDENT OBAMA MET WITH EXECUTIVES OF SOME OF THE NATION'S BIGGEST BANKS TODAY AND TOLD THEM TO GET CRACKING WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING LOANS. THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE BANKERS THEY HAVE TO HELP PROVIDE MOMENTUM FOR THE FRAGILE ECONOMIC RECOVERY BY MAKING MORE MONEY AVAILABLE TO SMALL BUSINESSES IN PARTICULAR. WHILE BANK OF AMERICA PLEDGED TO UP IT'S LENDING, SOME BANKERS COMPLAINED OF MIXED MESSAGES BECAUSE OF NEW LENDING

STANDARDS IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT; CITY GROUP ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT IS REPAYING IT'S TARP BAILOUT MONEY.

CONSUMER ISSUES

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED V-T-A IS CHARGING MORE TO CATCH A RIDE IN THE SOUTH BAY. STARTING TODAY, MOST FARES ARE GOING UP. THE PRICE OF A SINGLE RIDE PASS IS UP TO TWO DOLLARS FROM ONE DOLLAR 75 CENTS. A DAY PASS IS NOW 6 DOLLARS, UP FROM 5 DOLLARS. A MONTHLY PASS IS NOW 70 DOLLARS, UP FROM ABOUT 61 DOLLARS. AND A YEARLY PASS NOW COSTS 770 DOLLARS, UP FROM 674 DOLLARS. YOUTH AND SENIOR FARES ALSO COST MORE. THE V-T-A SAYS ITS BUDGET SHORTFALL IS A RESULT OF A LOSS IN STATE FUNDING AND A DECLINE IN SALES TAX REVENUE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED THAT IN LESS THAN 24-HOURS, THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE WILL NAME THE CITY WHICH WILL HOST THE 20-16 SUMMER GAMES. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA IS ON AN OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO DENMARK, WHERE HE'LL JOIN AN ALL-STAR TEAM OF CHICAGO BOOSTERS, LED BY THE FIRST LADY...WHO MET TODAY WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE. ANOTHER KEY MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION IS OPRAH WINFREY. RIO DE JANEIRO IS VIEWED AS CHICAGO'S MAIN COMPETITION AND SOCCER LEGEND, PELE -- ARGUABLY THE MOST FAMOUS ATHLETE *EVER*-- IS IN DENMARK, LOBBYING TO BRING THE OLYMPICS TO SOUTH AMERICA-- FOR THE FIRST TIME.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT SAN JOSE'S STREETS WILL BE CROWDED THIS WEEKEND...WITH RUNNERS AS THE CITY HOSTS THE FOURTH ANNUAL *ROCK AND ROLL HALF MARATHON*. SOME PARTICIPANTS GOT AN EARLY START TODAY AT SAN JOSE'S CONVENTION CENTER. THEY REGISTERED FOR THE RACE, AND THEN WANDERED THE EXHIBIT HALL, WHERE SOME 80 COMPANIES ARE SHOWING-OFF THE LATEST IN NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS AND RUNNING GEAR. SUNDAY MORNING'S 13-MILE RUN BEGINS DOWNTOWN AT EIGHT. RUNNERS ARE ASKED TO BRING GENTLY USED ATHLETIC SHOES TO THE RACE FOR THOSE IN NEED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT SOMETHING CALLED "LOV-EVOLUTION" DANCED ITS WAY THROUGH THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO TODAY. BASED ON BERLIN'S LOVE PARADE, SAN FRANCISCO'S LOVEFEST WAS RENAMED THIS YEAR TO LOV-EVOLUTION TO AVOID LEGAL ACTION FROM THE PROMOTERS OF THE LOVE FESTIVAL IN LOS ANGELES. ORGANIZERS SAY LOV-EVOLUTION ISN'T JUST A PARTY - BUT A PLATFORM TO PROMOTE PEACE, UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANCE, DIVERSITY, LOVE AND RESPECT. TENS OF THOUSANDS PARTICIPATED -- AND ARE STILL PARTYING AT CIVIC CENTER. LOVEEVOLUTION ALSO RAISES FUNDS FOR NON-PROFITS - AND OF COURSE -- IT PUMPS MONEY INTO THE SAN FRANCISCO ECONOMY AS WELL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/8/09 REPORTED AIRLINE DELAYS AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE AT AN AL- TIME HIGH AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A BROOKINGS INSTITUTION REPORT THAT SAYS THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS LANDING AT LEAST TWO HOURS LATE HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN THE PAST 20 YEARS. AND THE AVERAGE DELAY THIS YEAR IS CLOSE TO ONE HOUR. OF 25 DOMESTIC HUBS, SAN FRANCISCO EXPERIENCED *WORSE THAN AVERAGE* DELAYS. ITS ONTIME PERFORMANCE AVERAGE THIS YEAR IS 75 PERCENT. SAN JOSE AIRPORT IS DOING FAIRLY WELL, THOUGH. IT'S ONTIME AVERAGE IS 84 PERCENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/1/09 REPORTED THAT AS THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ELECTION APPROACHES - PRESIDENT OBAMA IS BRACING FOR MORE POOR ECONOMIC NEWS. UNEMPLOYMENT IS CURRENTLY AT NINE-POINT-EIGHT PERCENT, BUT IT'S EXPECTED TO PUSH CLOSER OR EVEN PAST THE 10 PERCENT MARK WITH THIS WEEK'S JOBS REPORT. ON TOP OF THAT - CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IS STILL DOWN, BANKS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO LEND - AND GAS PRICES ARE ON THE RISE. IN HIS WEEKLY ADDRESS, THE PRESIDENT ARGUED THAT WITHOUT HIS STIMULUS EFFORTS, ... THE ECONOMY WOULD BE MUCH WORSE. REPUBLICANS ARE CRITICIZING THE PRESIDENT'S CLAIM THAT HE'S CREATED OR SAVED A MILLION JOBS. THEY SAY THOSE JOBS ARE MAINLY GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS -- LAST WEEK, NUMBERS SHOWED THE ECONOMY GREW THREE AND A HALF PERCENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/1/09 REPORTED THAT TODAY IS THE START OF THE BAY AREA'S WINTER SPARE THE AIR SEASON. THAT MEANS NO BURNING WOOD ON DAYS WHEN AIR POLLUTION IS EXPECTED TO REACH UNHEALTHY LEVELS. WOOD SMOKE IS THE LARGEST SOURCE OF WINTERTIME AIR POLLUTION -- WHICH IS WHY THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT IMPLEMENTED THE BURN BAN LAST YEAR. FIRST TIME VIOLATORS ARE WARNED. SECOND TIME VIOLATORS ARE FINED 400 DOLLARS -- AND THE FINES GO UP WITH EACH ADDITIONAL VIOLATION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/1/09 REPORTED THAT BAY AREA SHELTERS ARE OVERFLOWING WITH CATS AND KITTENS -- BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD THEM ANYMORE. SO THIS MONTH, THE EAST BAY S-P-C-A WILL GIVE AWAY CAT "ASSISTANCE KITS" TO HELP PEOPLE AND THEIR PETS STAY TOGETHER. ORGANIZERS SAY 20-THOUSAND COUPONS FOR FREE CAT FOOD AND CAT LITTER WILL ALSO BE GIVEN AWAY. THE EAST BAY S-P-C-A IN OAKLAND PLANS TO GIVE OUT THE CAT ASSISTANCE KITS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14-TH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ISN'T KNOWN AS "GEYSER COUNTRY," SO SOMETHING ELSE WAS GOING ON TODAY IN SHERMAN OAKS. WHEN THE LARGE UNDERGROUND WATER MAIN BROKE, IT SHUT DOWN THIS BUSY INTERSECTION. THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER STILL HASN'T RELEASED THE CAUSE-- BUT THERE'VE BEEN A RASH OF THESE BREAKS IN RECENT MONTHS. THE CITY'S AGING WATER SYSTEM GETS THE BLAME. THIS HUGE PLUME IS ACTUALLY RECYCLED WATER, FOR IRRIGATION AND INDUSTRIAL USE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/3/09 REPORTED THAT STARTING OCTOBER FIRST, THE STATE IS GOING TO WITH-HOLD AN EXTRA TEN PERCENT FROM WORKERS' PAYCHECKS. AS PART OF LAST JULY'S STATE BUDGET DEAL, LAWMAKERS AND THE GOVERNOR AGREED TO THE INCREASE. FOR THE RECORD -- YOUR TAXES ARE NOT GOING UP, BUT THE INCREASED DEDUCTIONS ARE THE EQUIVALENT OF WORKERS GIVING THE STATE A ONE-POINT-SEVEN BILLION DOLLAR INTEREST-FREE LOAN. TAXPAYERS CAN AVOID THE EXTRA WITHHOLDING BY FILING A NEW *W-4 FORM* WITH THEIR EMPLOYER, CLAIMING MORE EXEMPTIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/4/09 REPORTED THE BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY IS CONSIDERING HIKING TOLLS ON THE REGION'S SEVEN STATE OWNED BRIDGES TO AS MUCH AS SIX DOLLARS DURING PEAK TRAFFIC HOURS. THE TOLL AUTHORITY HELD A PUBLIC MEETING IN OAKLAND TODAY WHERE IT DISCUSSED THREE OPTIONS DESIGNED TO RAISE 160-MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY. UNDER EACH OPTION, FARES WOULD BE RAISED TO FIVE DOLLARS FOR CARS AND MOTORCYCLES. FARES WOULD BE LOWERED OR RAISED BY ONE DOLLAR, THE

FLUCTUATION TIED TO PEAK AND OFF-PEAK HOURS. ANOTHER PLAN WOULD GIVE A FREE PASS TO CARPOOLS AND CHARGE TRUCKS AN ADDITIONAL 10 DOLLARS PER AXEL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/1/09 REPORTED MILLIONS OF JOBLESS AMERICANS ARE FACING A HUGE INCREASE IN THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS. COBRA HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDIES START EXPIRING TODAY. THE SUBSIDIES WERE CREATED AS A TEMPORARY SOLUTION TO SKYROCKETING HEALTHCARE COSTS UNDER THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S "AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT." THE PROGRAM BEGAN IN MARCH AND PAYS 65-PERCENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR NINE MONTHS FOR PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR JOBS. IF CONGRESS DOESN'T EXTEND THE PROGRAM, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS WILL HAVE TO PAY INSURANCE PREMIUMS THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN WHAT THEY'RE CURRENTLY PAYING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/2/09 REPORTED STARTING THIS SATURDAY, SAN FRANCISCO'S MUNI-SYSTEM WILL MAKE SOME OF THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ROUTE CHANGES IN ITS HISTORY. MUNI SAYS 60-PERCENT OF ITS BUS ROUTES WILL EXPERIENCE SOME SORT OF CHANGE IN SERVICE. SOME ROUTES WILL BE ELIMINATED, WHILE OTHERS WILL BE INCREASED TO PICK UP THE SLACK. THE CHANGES ARE PART OF MUNI'S PLAN TO DEAL WITH ITS 129 MILLION-DOLLAR DEFICIT. MUNI PLANS TO HAVE "AMBASSADORS" AT STOPS TO HELP RIDERS FIGURE-OUT THE CHANGES. PASSENGERS CAN ALSO GO ONLINE TO S-F-M-T-A DOT-COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/11/09 REPORTED SHOPPERS ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE AT UNION SQUARE THIS WEEKEND; PARKING WILL BE EVEN TOUGHER THAN IT ALREADY IS. THE CITY IS HANDING SOME PARKING SPOTS OVER TO PEDESTRIANS ON POWELL STREET BETWEEN ELLIS AND GEARY. THE BUSY CORRIDOR IS CROWDED WITH CABLE CARS, CARS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE. THE IDEA IS TO CREATE A PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY, BUT LOGISTICS OF THE CLOSURE ARE A BIT OF A MYSTERY. RESTAURANT DELIVERIES MAY ALSO BE SNARLED. THE VILLA FLORENCE HOTEL IS EXPECTING 100 GUESTS TO CHECK IN LATER TONIGHT; IT WILL BE A JUGGLING ACT. SEVERAL HOTELS WILL FACE THE SAME CHALLENGE, BUT THEY ARE WILLING TO GIVE IT A TRY. THE TRIAL GOES UNTIL MONDAY MORNING AT 9AM.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/14/09 REPORTED CREWS IN SAN FRANCISCO HOPE TO FINISH REPAIRS TONIGHT ON A MASSIVE SINKHOLE. MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF WATER FLOODED THE SOUTH OF MARKET NEIGHBORHOOD IN SAN FRANCISCO SATURDAY NIGHT AFTER A WATER MAIN BREAK. FOUR DIFFERENT INTERSECTIONS HAD TO BE CLOSED DURING THE REPAIRS. CITY WATER OFFICIALS SAID THE COLD WEATHER CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAILURE OF THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR OLD PIPE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/14/09 REPORTED A BRITISH AIRWAYS STRIKE COULD LEAVE THOUSANDS OF HOLIDAY TRAVELERS STRANDED. BRITISH AIRWAYS CABIN CREWS VOTED TODAY TO STAGE A 12-DAY STRIKE BEGINNING DECEMBER 22ND AND RUNNING THROUGH JANUARY SECOND. BRITISH AIRWAYS MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN WRANGLING FOR MONTHS WITH THE TRADE UNION THAT REPRESENTS THE CARRIERS 13,500 FLIGHT ATTENDANTS. THEY ARE DEADLOCKED OVER CHANGES TO STAFF CONTRACTS, JOB CUTS AND A PROPOSED TWO-YEAR PAY FREEZE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/15/09 REPORTED A WARNING FOR PARENTS TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WINDOW AND DOOR COVERINGS AT HOME. THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION IS RECALLING 50- MILLION

"ROMAN SHADES" - BECAUSE THEY CAN STRANGLE CHILDREN. THE RECALL INCLUDES EVERY ROMAN SHADE AND ROLL UP BLIND WITH A CORD - IN HOMES WITH SMALL CHILDREN. EIGHT CHILDREN HAVE DIED FROM CORD STRANGULATION SINCE 2001. THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS MOVING ALL CRIBS AND FURNITURE AWAY FROM WINDOWS - AND CUTTING THE ENDS OF PULL CORDS SO THEY CANNOT FORM A NOOSE. YOU CAN CALL THE "WINDOW COVERING SAFETY COUNCIL" - AT 800- 506- 4636 FOR A FREE REPAIR KIT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/15/09 REPORTED SOUTHBAY RESIDENTS WHO LIKE TO VISIT *BEAN-TOWN* ARE IN LUCK. TODAY, JET-BLUE AIRWAYS ANNOUNCED NEW DAILY NONSTOP FLIGHTS BETWEEN SAN JOSÉ AND BOSTON --STARTING IN MAY. JETBLUE SAYS THE NEW ROUTE WILL CONNECT TWO OF THE NATION'S KEY TECHNOLOGY CENTERS, OFFERING THE ONLY NONSTOP SERVICE BETWEEN SILICON VALLEY AND BOSTON. THE FIRST FEW FLIGHTS ARE ON SALE FOR 99-DOLLARS EACH WAY.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILY, ELDERLY, MEN & WOMEN

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT MICHAEL JACKSON'S CHILDREN APPEARED IN COURT TODAY - A WELFARE CHECK -OF SORTS - TO SEE HOW THEY'RE DOING IN THE CARE OF THEIR GRANDMOTHER, KATHERINE JACKSON. A COURT AWARDED KATHERINE JACKSON, GUARDIANSHIP OF HER LATE SON'S THREE CHILDREN, LAST MONTH. THE SINGER'S ESTATE IS PAYING A 60-THOUSAND DOLLARS A MONTH - TO CARE FOR AND PROTECT THEM. THE MONEY GOES TO PAY FOR STAFF, ENTERTAINMENT AND OTHER EXPENSES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED A BAY AREA SCIENTIST HAS BEEN NAMED WINNER OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS. ELIZABETH BLACKBURN AT UCSF WAS AWARDED THE 2009 NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/14/09 REPORTED SENIORS RELYING ON SOCIAL SECURITY, SHOULD NOT EXPECT A RAISE. THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE THERE WILL BE NO COST OF LIVING INCREASE NEXT YEAR. IT WILL MARK THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1975 WITHOUT A BUMP. TO MAKE UP FOR IT, PRESIDENT OBAMA IS CALLING ON CONGRESS TO APPROVE 250-DOLLAR PAYMENTS TO MORE THAN 50 MILLION SENIORS FOR NEXT YEAR. THE WHITE HOUSE ESTIMATES THE COST AT 13 BILLION DOLLARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/15/09 REPORTED A BAY AREA HOSPITAL SAYS STARTING MONDAY IT WILL BAR KIDS FROM VISITING PATIENTS, EVEN IF THEY ARE FAMILY MEMBERS. STANFORD AND LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS SAY CHILDREN UNDER 16 WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT PATIENTS IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF THE SWINE FLU. HOSPITAL OFFICIALS SAY KIDS ARE MORE LIKELY TO CONTRACT THE DISEASE AND CAN BE INFECTIOUS FOR LONGER PERIODS OF TIME. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTER OAKLAND HAS ALREADY STARTED BANING VISITORS UNDER 18.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/19/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA GAVE A GROUP OF CHILDREN IN MARYLAND QUITE THE SURPRISE WHEN HE SHOWED UP AT THEIR SCHOOL DURING LUNCHTIME. HE WAS THERE TO ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO KEEP READING, BECAUSE IT'S A SCHOOL THAT WON A NATIONAL AWARD FOR CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP. THE PRESIDENT TOLD SOME CHILDREN "WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE" WAS ONE OF HIS FAVORITE BOOKS

GROWING UP. IT WAS HIS SECOND STOP AT A SCHOOL TODAY, HE AND THE FIRST LADY ATTENDED PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES AT THEIR DAUGHTERS SCHOOL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED CHRONIC STRESS IS OFTEN LINKED TO EATING MORE, AND A NEW STUDY SHOWS WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO EAT HIGH FAT FOOD WHEN STRESSED OUT. THE UC-SF STUDY FOLLOWED MORE THAN 600 WOMEN WHO WERE OVERWEIGHT AND ASKED ABOUT THEIR EATING HABITS AND LIFE STRESS. WOMEN CITED RENT TROUBLE, DEAD END JOBS, AND FAMILY PROBLEMS AS THE BIGGEST ISSUES. RESEARCHERS SAY THE BEST WAY TO CONTROL STRESS EATING IS TO RECOGNIZE WHEN IT HAPPENS, AND CHOOSE HEALTHIER OPTIONS SO WEIGHT GAIN DOESN'T ADD TO THE STRESS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/3/09 REPORTED AMERICANS ARE STRESSED OUT, AND NOW A NEW SURVEY SAYS IT'S THE CHILDREN WHO ARE REALLY FEELING THE PAIN AND IT APPEARS THE PARENTS HAVE NO IDEA. ONLY THREE PERCENT OF PARENTS RATED THEIR CHILDREN'S STRESS AS EXTREME, BUT ALMOST A QUARTER OF THEIR KIDS DID. 36 PERCENT OF CHILDREN WORRIED MORE THIS YEAR THAN LAST AND 45 PERCENT REPORTED DIFFICULTY SLEEPING. IT APPEARS KIDS ARE FOLLOWING THEIR PARENTS' LEAD -- 89-PERCENT OF PARENTS REPORTED SIGNIFICANT STRESS. DOCTORS SAY THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO LOWER STRESS THROUGH EXERCISE AND TO ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO DO THE SAME.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/9/09 REPORTED A COMMON COOKING INGREDIENT COULD POSE A HEALTH RISK FOR YOUR KIDS. NEW RESEARCH SHOWS EATING JUST ONE TABLESPOON A DAY OF SOME VINEGARS CAN RAISE A YOUNG CHILD'S LEAD LEVEL BY MORE THAN THIRTY-PERCENT. INCREASED LEAD LEVELS CAN REDUCE A CHILD'S I-Q OR TRIGGER LEARNING AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS. THE RESEARCH WAS REPORTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS MAGAZINE. OFFICIALS WHO REPRESENT THE VINEGAR INDUSTRY SAY THEIR PRODUCT IS SAFE TO CONSUME AND THAT OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS ALSO CONTAIN VARYING LEVELS OF LEAD.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/12/09 REPORTED THE LONGEST RUNNING ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY IN SAN FRANCISCO IS CELEBRATING ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY TONIGHT. THE UNIVERSITY MOUND LADIES HOME, IN SAN FRANCISCO'S PORTOLA NEIGHBORHOOD, WAS DONATED BY JAMES LICK TO BE A HOME FOR ELDERLY WOMEN IN THE CITY. BUT LAST YEAR ALL WAS NOT WELL. THE LADIES HOME WAS IN DANGER OF CLOSING ITS DOORS - BUT A NEW ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES WERE BROUGHT IN, AND THE HOME WAS ABLE TO REMAIN IN BUSINESS. TONIGHT, IS A CELEBRATION OF NOT JUST THE ANNIVERSARY BUT ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE COMMUNITY THAT HELPED THE LADIES HOME STAY OPEN TO ITS RESIDENTS. THE LADIES HOME SERVES OVER 40 RESIDENTS OVER THE AGE OF 65.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/19/09 REPORTED A NEW STUDY SHOWS WOMEN HAVE MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN BECOMING LEADERS OF CALIFORNIA COMPANIES. THE U-C DAVIS REPORT SHOWS WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR JUST 10 PERCENT OF EXECUTIVES AND BOARD MEMBERS AT THE FOUR HUNDRED LARGEST PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANIES - HEADQUARTERED IN CALIFORNIA. THE NUMBERS HAVE NOT CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE FIRST SURVEY IN 2005. THE STUDY ALSO SHOWS NEARLY 30 PERCENT OF COMPANIES HAVE NO WOMEN ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - OR IN EXECUTIVE POSITIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/2/09 REPORTED SAN JOSE POLICE SAY A 9-YEAR-OLD BOY AND HIS 3-MONTH-OLD SISTER HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY THEIR PARENTS. POLICE SAY THE TWO ARE NOT THE CHILDREN'S LEGAL

GUARDIANS. THEY WERE ABDUCTED AROUND 9-40 YESTERDAY MORNING. INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE THE CHILDREN ARE IN DANGER. FRANCISCO ARIAS JUNIOR STANDS 3 FEET TALL, WEIGHS 65 POUNDS AND HAS BLACK HAIR AND BROWN EYES. ASHLEY ARIAS IS 21 INCHES LONG, WEIGHS 9 POUNDS AND HAS BLACK HAIR AND BROWN EYES. ARREST WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR FRANCISCO AND ESTELLA ARIAS. FRANCISCO ARIAS IS 42, WEIGHS 200 POUNDS, STANDS 5-FEET-6 AND HAS BLACK HAIR AND EYES. ESTELLA ARIAS IS 38, STANDS 5-FEET-2, WEIGHS 130 POUNDS AND HAS BLACK HAIR AND BROWN EYES. THEY WERE LAST SEEN DRIVING A RED FORD EXPEDITION -- CALIFORNIA LICENSE PLATE NUMBER 5-F-D-A-9-3-3. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, YOU ARE ASKED TO CALL SAN JOSE POLICE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/2/09 REPORTED AUTHORITIES IN GILROY SAY THEY HAVE FOUND THE BODY OF A WOMAN WHO DISAPPEARED WHILE HEADING TO THE AIRPORT MONDAY MORNING. INVESTIGATORS SAY 44-YEAR OLD 'MADONNA HOUSE' WAS LAST SEEN AT HER HOME IN GILROY - BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE MINETA SAN JOSE AIRPORT. GILROY POLICE FOUND HOUSE IN HER CAR NEAR JOHN WILSON WAY AND MONTEREY HIGHWAY. THEY ARE NOT RELEASING DETAILS YET ON WHO FOUND HER, HOW SHE WAS FOUND, OR WHETHER THIS APPEARS TO BE AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/9/09 REPORTED A BOISE, IDAHO BOY GETS OUT OF A STICKY SITUATION WITH THE HELP OF SOME FIREFIGHTERS. 10-YEAR OLD SAM NICHOLSON GOT HIS TONGUE STUCK TO A FRIGID, METAL POLE. FIREFIGHTERS FREED THE BOY USING A GLASS OF WARM WATER TO UN-STICK HIS TONGUE. SAM WAS NOT HURT, SO HE WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WALKING TO SCHOOL WITH NO REAL DAMAGE DONE EXCEPT MAYBE TO HIS PRIDE. SAM APPEARS TO HAVE LEARNED HIS LESSON; HIS ADVICE TO OTHER KIDS - DON'T BE A COPYCAT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/14/09 REPORTED MIXED RESULTS FROM A NEW SURVEY ON TEENS AND DRUGS. METH USE IS DOWN; SO ARE COCAINE, TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL USE. AND THERE'S NO INCREASE IN TEENS USING L-S-D, ECSTASY OR HEROIN. STILL, ONE IN EVERY THREE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SAY THEY'VE ABUSED DRUGS IN THE PAST YEAR -- MOSTLY, MARIJUANA. THE SURVEY FOUND MORE TEENS NOW THINK IT'S SAFE. PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE IS MIXED: ONE IN 10 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS USE VICODIN - THAT'S LESS THAN LAST YEAR. BUT YOUNGER TEENS ADMIT ABUSING THE PAINKILLER OXYCONTIN. AND, NEW ON THE RADAR: ADDERALL - WHICH SEEMS TO BE REPLACING THE ADHD DRUG RITALIN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/14/09 REPORTED RESEARCHERS IN DENMARK SPENT YEARS FOLLOWING HUNDREDS OF TWINS OVER AGE-70, COMPARING THE TWIN WHO LOOKED YOUNGER WITH HIS-- OR HER-- UNFORTUNATE COUNTERPART. THE SCIENTISTS DOCUMENTED THAT THE MORE YOUTHFUL LOOKING TWINS HAD A KEY D-N-A COMPONENT LINKED TO AGING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/15/09 REPORTED AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY IN ALAMEDA, WHERE A WOMAN WAS FOUND STRANGLED INSIDE HER HOME. POLICE SAY 47 YEAR OLD *TONYA FOTI* WAS FOUND DEAD FRIDAY, AT HER HOME ON CORPUS CHRISTI ROAD NEAR PAN AM WAY, ON THE FORMER NAVAL BASE. FOTI WAS DISCOVERED CLOTHED, AND ON HER BED, LEADING POLICE TO BELIEVE SHE DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES. BUT TODAY, INVESTIGATORS REVEALED SHE WAS STRANGLED. IT'S JUST THE FOURTH HOMICIDE IN ALAMEDA THIS YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/16/09 REPORTED A BAY AREA WOMAN WHO LOST HER HUSBAND DURING A SNOWSTORM IN OREGON THREE YEARS

AGO MADE AN EMOTIONAL RETURN TRIP WITH HER DAUGHTERS. KATI KIM, HER HUSBAND JAMES, AND THEIR DAUGHTERS WERE DRIVING HOME TO SAN FRANCISCO WHEN THEY GOT LOST AND BECAME STRANDED IN OREGON'S BACK COUNTRY IN 2006. JAMES KIM DIED-- AFTER HE LEFT HIS FAMILY IN THE CAR TO TRY AND FIND HELP. LAST WEEKEND, KIM AND HER DAUGHTERS SURPRISED THE SEARCHERS WHO HELPED FIND THE FAMILY, BY SHOWING UP AT THEIR HOLIDAY PARTY. A WRITER WHO IS HELPING KIM WITH A BOOK TITLED "NOWHERE WARM" JOINED THEM ON THE TRIP.

CRIMES-FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL, LAW & LAW ENFORCEMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED A CHEMICAL RELEASE MAY HAVE KILLED AN 18 YEAR OLD, WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND TODAY IN HIS PLEASANT HILL APARTMENT. BEFORE NOON, POLICE WERE CALLED TO AN APARTMENT COMPLEX ON GOLF CLUB ROAD. ON ARRIVING, THEY WERE OVERCOME BY STRONG FUMES FROM ONE OF THE UNITS. THAT'S WHERE THEY FOUND THE BODY OF THE YOUNG MAN. NEIGHBORS WERE TOLD TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE. IN ALL, NINE PEOPLE WERE OVERCOME BY THE TOXIC SMELL, AND THREE WERE TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL. AUTHORITIES SAY THE ODOR WAS HYDROGEN SULFIDE, BUT WOULDN COMMENT ON WHAT CAUSED IT. THEY WILL ONLY SAY IT'S DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO BUY AT A STORE. POLICE ARE NOT RULING OUT SUICIDE AS THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED THE BONE FRAGMENTS UNCOVERED AT THE EAST BAY HOME OF KIDNAPPING SUSPECT, PHILLIP GARRIDO, APPEAR TO BE ANIMAL...NOT HUMAN. THAT'S THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF TESTS ON THE BONES COLLECTED BY INVESTIGATORS AT THE HOUSE OUTSIDE ANTIOCH. INVESTIGATORS LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE IN THE KIDNAPPING OF TWO OTHER LOCAL GIRLS SPENT DAYS WITH SHOVELS, DOGS, AND HEAVY MACHINERY, SIFTING THROUGH DIRT IN THE BACK YARD. GARRIDO AND HIS WIFE ARE ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING JAYCEE DUGARD IN 1991 AND HOLDING HER CAPTIVE 18 YEARS. THE GARRIDOS HAVE PLEADED NOT GUILTY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED THE 21-YEAR-OLD MAN ACCUSED OF CLIMBING INTO THE GRIZZLY BEAR ENCLOSURE AT THE SAN FRANCISCO ZOO REMAINS IN CUSTODY TONIGHT -- APPARENTLY UNABLE TO POST BAIL. KENNETH HERRON APPEARED IN COURT TODAY FOR A BAIL HEARING. A JUDGE SET BAIL AT 10-THOUSAND DOLLARS, AND SAYS HERRON POSES A SERIOUS PUBLIC SAFETY RISK. HERRON'S PUBLIC DEFENDER WANTED BAIL REDUCED, BUT THE JUDGE REFUSED. HIS NEXT COURT APPEARANCE WILL BE A JURY TRIAL ON OCTOBER 9TH. HERRON HAS PLEADED NOT GUILTY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED TONIGHT, NAPA POLICE ARE HOLDING THREE SUSPECTS IN THAT MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A STRING OF SOLAR PANEL THEFTS. THE TRIO WERE ARRESTED EARLY YESTERDAY MORNING ALONG THE SILVARADO TRAIL IN NAPA VALLEY. DEPUTIES NABBED THE THREE SUSPECTS SHORTLY AFTER AN ALARM ACTIVATION AT THE HONIG VINEYARD SOLAR PANEL FIELD IN RUTHERFORD. POLICE SAY THE SUSPECTS ARE ALL TRANSIENTS WHO LIVE IN THE VALLEY. DETECTIVES BELIEVE THE SUSPECTS MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A STRING OF SOLAR PANEL THEFTS IN THE AREA OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED THAT PLEASANT HILL POLICE RELEASED NEW DETAILS TODAY ON WHAT LED UP TO A DEADLY STANDOFF YESTERDAY THAT FORCED A NEIGHBORHOOD INTO LOCKDOWN. OFFICERS SHOT AND KILLED 32-YEAR OLD RENARDO FLORES AROUND 4 O'CLOCK

AFTER HE KEPT OFFICERS AT BAY FOR FIVE HOURS. INVESTIGATORS SAY IT ALL STARTED EARLIER IN THE DAY WHEN FLORES GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH TWO FRIENDS...A MAN AND A WOMAN. HE REPORTEDLY SHOT HIS MALE FRIEND AS THE TWO TRIED TO RUN. THE STANDOFF ENSUED WHEN FLORES SHOT AT RESPONDING OFFICERS. FLORE'S FATHER SAYS HE PLEADED WITH OFFICERS TO LET HIM TRY TO CONVINCE HIS SON TO SURRENDER. BUT POLICE SAY IT'S AGAINST PROCEDURE IN STANDOFFS TO INVOLVE FAMILY MEMBERS IN NEGOTIATIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/1/09 REPORTED A FREMONT MAN WHO WAS SHOT SIX TIMES IN A ROBBERY THIS MORNING IS NOT ONLY ALIVE -- BUT IN STABLE CONDITION TONIGHT. THE SHOOTING HAPPENED IN A HOME NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF WEST PICKERING AVENUE AND MISSION BOULEVARD IN FREMONT - AT ABOUT TWO A.M. POLICE SAY TWO ARMED MEN BROKE INTO THE HOUSE AND DEMANDED MONEY FROM THE PEOPLE INSIDE. WHEN THE 21-YEAR-OLD VICTIM REPORTEDLY GRABBED A GUN IN THE HOUSE -- A GUNFIGHT BROKE OUT. IT'S NOT KNOWN IF EITHER SUSPECT WAS INJURED IN THE FIREFIGHT. NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/1/09 REPORTED THAT SAN FRANCISCO POLICE EXPECTED THE CASTRO TO BE CROWDED AND CHALLENGING THIS HALLOWEEN, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT FELL ON A SATURDAY -- BUT THEY SAY THEY MADE JUST 8 ARRESTS. OFFICERS FLOODED THE CITY'S CASTRO DISTRICT LAST NIGHT. THE POLICE CHIEF SAID HE WANTED TO SEND A FIRM MESSAGE THAT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. THE CASTRO'S OFFICIAL HALLOWEEN PARTY WAS SHUT DOWN 3 YEARS AGO --- AFTER NINE PEOPLE WERE SHOT IN 2006, BUT AN UNOFFICIAL PARTY HAS REMAINED POPULAR. LAST NIGHT WAS PRETTY MILD, WITH JUST FIVE ARRESTS FOR PUBLIC INTOXICATION, ONE FOR POSSESSION OF AN ILLEGAL WEAPON, ONE FOR BATTERY, AND ONE FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/1/09 REPORTED THAT SOME SAN JOSE POLICE OFFICERS HAVE A NEW ADDITION TO THEIR UNIFORMS, CAMERAS SO TINY-- THEY WEAR THEM! SAN JOSE POLICE WILL DEPLOY THE EAR-MOUNTED CAMERAS TO ABOUT SEVENTY OFFICERS ON A TRIAL BASIS. THE IDEA IS TO PROVIDE CRITICAL VIDEO AND AUDIO FROM THE OFFICERS' PERSPECTIVE. THE SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE VISUAL EVIDENCE TO CRIME LABS, JUDGES AND POLICE SUPERVISORS. IT COULD ALSO HELP OFFICERS SPEND LESS TIME ON PAPERWORK AND MORE TIME ON PATROL. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT COMBATIVE SUSPECTS TEND TO TONE-DOWN THEIR BEHAVIOR IF THEY KNOW THEY'RE BEING FILMED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/5/09 REPORTED THAT A PHOENIX COUPLE IS CHARGED WITH STEALING A SMALL MOUNTAIN OF LUGGAGE FROM THE BAGGAGE CAROUSELS OF SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. KEITH KING AND HIS WIFE, STACEY ARE ACCUSED OF TAKING THE LUGGAGE OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF. POLICE SAY THEY HAVE SURVEILLANCE VIDEO THAT SHOWS KING DRIVING TO THE BAGGAGE CLAIM AREA AND STEALING THE BAGS FROM THE CAROUSELS. POLICE FOUND 14 ROOMS OF STOLEN LUGGAGE IN THE COUPLES' HOME. POLICE ARE NOW TRYING TO LOCATE THE OWNERS OF CLOSE TO ONE THOUSAND STOLEN BAGS WITH NO I-D TAGS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/6/09 REPORTED THAT THERE WAS A MASS SHOOTING TODAY AT A FLORIDA OFFICE BUILDING. ONE PERSON IS DEAD AND ANOTHER FIVE ARE WOUNDED; AFTER A FIVE HOUR MANHUNT, POLICE HAVE A SUSPECT IN CUSTODY. IT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE LUNCHTIME IN ORLANDO AT A LARGE 16 STORY OFFICE COMPLEX. POLICE SAY 40-YEAR-OLD JASON RODRIGUEZ WALKED INTO AN ENGINEERING FIRM AND FATALLY SHOT ONE VICTIM. HE THEN OPENED FIRE HITTING FIVE OTHERS. THE SHOOTING PROMPTED A MASSIVE

RESPONSE FROM SWAT TEAMS AS EMPLOYEES SCRAMBLED TO FIND HIDING PLACES. RODRIGUEZ WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY HOURS LATER AT HIS MOTHER'S HOUSE. HE THEN TOLD INVESTIGATORS THAT HE WAS A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE FIRM AND HE BELIEVES THAT HE WAS FIRED TWO YEARS AGO FOR NO GOOD REASON.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/11/09 REPORTED THAT SWINE FLU IS BEHIND A CRIME IN WASHINGTON STATE, WHERE SOME CROOKS STOLE ABOUT 20 DOSES OF H1-N1 FLU VACCINE. THE THURSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAYS THE THIEVES MADE OFF WITH ABOUT THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF H-1-N-1 VACCINES. THE VIALS WERE STOLEN FROM AN UNLOCKED REFRIGERATOR FROM A HOSPICE IN OLYMPIA LAST WEEK. THE MEDICINE WAS EARMARKED FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS DEALING DIRECTLY WITH THE PUBLIC.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/1/09 REPORTED LATE THIS AFTERNOON, SAN FRANCISCO POLICE SGT. WILFRED WILLIAMS SAYS POLICE ON PATROL DETAINED A MAN THEY BELIEVE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR YESTERDAY STABBING OF A 24 YEAR OLD PASSENGER. THE ARREST HAPPENED ALONG THE METRO TRACKS IN THE SUNSET DISTRICT THIS MORNING. ONLY THAT THEY THINK HE STABBED RACHEL "TY" BROWN WHILE SHE AND HER PARTNER RODE THE J-CHURCH METRO LINE MONDAY AND HE COULD BE A SUSPECT IN THE STABBING OF AN 11 YEAR OLD BOY IN SEPTEMBER. BROWN IS RECOVERING AT S.F. GENERAL; FROM HER HOSPITAL BED SHE SAYS SHE FELT LIKE SOMEBODY PUNCHED HER IN THE SIDE, AND WHEN SHE WOKE UP SHE RELEASED IT WAS MORE THAN A PUNCH -- SHE WAS BLEEDING. POLICE SAY THE WEAPON WAS POSSIBLY A BOX CUTTER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/1/09 REPORTED SIX YOUNG MEN CHARGED IN THE GANG RAPE OF A 16-YEAR OLD RICHMOND GIRL OUTSIDE A HOMECOMING DANCE PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO THE CHARGES TODAY. FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF THE DEFENDANTS, WHO RANGE IN AGE FROM 15 TO 21 YEARS OLD, PACKED THE COURTROOM. A JUDGE ORDERED ALL SIX OF THE ACCUSED BACK IN COURT ON JANUARY 21ST. PROSECUTORS SAY ITS UNLIKELY THE CASE WILL GO TO A GRAND JURY. THE VICTIM IS NOT EXPECTED TO TESTIFY AT THE UPCOMING PRELIMINARY HEARING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/1/09 REPORTED THAT POLICE SAY THAT THIEVES WENT TO THE SONOMA HOME OF THE FAMILY KILLED THIS WEEKEND BY A SPEEDING DRIVER -- AND RANSACKED THE HOUSE LAST NIGHT. NOT ONLY DID THEY TEAR THRU THE HOUSE, THEY ALSO STOLE THE MALONEY FAMILY'S 2006 NISSAN. INVESTIGATORS ARE MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY- TO HELP DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT ELSE WAS TAKEN. THE MALONEYS, INCLUDING TWO YOUNG CHILDREN WERE KILLED SATURDAY NIGHT IN SONOMA COUNTY AS THEY RETURNED FROM A THANKSGIVING TRIP TO HAWAII.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/4/09 REPORTED THAT TWO MEN ARE RECOVERING FROM SURGERY TONIGHT -- AFTER A SHOOTOUT AT AN ALAMO JEWELRY STORE. POLICE SAY 50-YEAR-OLD THOMAS BENNETT WALKED INTO THE ALAMO JEWELRY MART LAST NIGHT -- PULLED A GUN, AND DEMANDED MONEY FROM THE OWNER. INSTEAD OF COMPLYING, THE OWNER PULLED HIS OWN GUN -- AND THE TWO MEN SHOT EACH OTHER MULTIPLE TIMES. THE OWNER WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL, AND IS NOW IN CRITICAL CONDITION. BENNETT HOLED UP IN THE JEWELRY SHOP FOR AN HOUR BEFORE SURRENDERING TO POLICE. HE IS IN STABLE CONDITION TONIGHT, WITH HIS BAIL SET AT OVER A MILLION DOLLARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/11/09 REPORTED ELEVEN STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR THEIR ROLES IN A BRAWL ON AN EAST BAY

HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS. POLICE SAY THE FIGHT BROKE OUT YESTERDAY IN THE MAIN HALLWAY AT DE ANZA HIGH SCHOOL IN RICHMOND. SCHOOL OFFICIALS AREN'T SAYING WHAT SPARKED THE FIGHT, ONLY THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE DIVIDED ALONG RACIAL LINES. POLICE SAY THE FIGHT WAS NOT GANG RELATED. A SECURITY GUARD SUFFERED MINOR INJURIES. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDED TWO EXTRA POLICE OFFICERS TO MAKE SURE THERE WAS NO TROUBLE TODAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/12/09 REPORTED CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER IS SPEAKING OUT TONIGHT ABOUT A PROTEST AT THE HOME OF THE UC BERKELEY CHANCELLOR. DOZENS OF PEOPLE WERE PROTESTING THE STUDENT FEE HIKES BUT THE CROWD QUICKLY TURNED VIOLENT AND POLICE ARRESTED EIGHT PEOPLE. IN A STATEMENT, GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER CALLS THE ATTACK CRIMINAL AND SAYS THOSE INVOLVED WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW. JUST AFTER 11 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT, A CROWD OF AS MANY AS 70 PEOPLE CARRYING TORCHES SURROUNDED CHANCELLOR ROBERT BIRGENEAU'S HOME ON CAMPUS. ACCORDING TO A UC BERKELEY SPOKESPERSON THE PROTESTORS WERE SMASHING WINDOWS LIGHTS AND PLANTERS -- SOME TOSSING INCENDIARY OBJECTS AT THE HOME. THE CROWD WAS APPARENTLY PROTESTING STUDENT FEE HIKES AND BUDGET CUTS. EIGHT PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH SUSPICION OF RIOTING, VANDALISM, ATTEMPTED BURGLARY AND ATTEMPTED ARSON. ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS AT LEAST TWO OF THE EIGHT PEOPLE ARRESTED ARE UC BERKELEY STUDENTS AND IT APPEARS ANOTHER IS A STUDENT AT UC DAVIS. THE CHANCELLOR ISSUED A STATEMENT TODAY SAYING, "THESE ARE CRIMINALS- NOT ACTIVISTS. THE ATTACK AT OUR HOME WAS EXTRAORDINARILY FRIGHTENING AND VIOLENT. MY WIFE AND I GENUINELY FEARED FOR OUR LIVES".

DIVERSITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT DESPITE YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE RIGHTS, IT HAS TAKEN A *GAY *DIVORCE** TO GET A TEXAS JUDGE TO DECLARE THE STATE'S BAN ON GAY MARRIAGE - UNCONSTITUTIONAL. DESPITE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VOW TO APPEAL THE RULING, THE ATTORNEY FOR ONE OF THE MEN SAYS HE EXPECTS THE DIVORCE TO BE FINALIZED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARING TO SPEAK TO A GATHERING OF GAY RIGHTS ACTIVISTS THIS WEEKEND. IN THE PAST THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID THAT BANNING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS DISCRIMINATORY, GAY RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SEE THIS SATURDAY'S EVENT AS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE SPEECH COMES ONE DAY BEFORE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO CALL FOR GREATER LEGAL PROTECTION FOR GAYS, LESBIANS AND TRANSGENDER AMERICANS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/6/09 REPORTED THE U-S IS CHANGING THE WAY IT INCARCERATES UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS WHO'VE BEEN ARRESTED. UNDER A PLAN INTRODUCED TODAY BY HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY JANET NAPOLIATANO, NON-VIOLENT DETAINEES WOULD BE PLACED IN MINIMUM SECURITY FACILITIES. FEDERAL AUTHORITIES SAY THEY PLAN TO USE CONVERTED HOTELS - NURSING HOMES - AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS. THE IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SAYS IT HOLDS NEARLY 32-THOUSAND UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS EVERY DAY, CRITICS SAY IN UNSAFE AND INHUMANE CONDITIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/8/09 REPORTED GAY RIGHTS GROUPS ARE CELEBRATING TODAY AFTER THE HOUSE PASSED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXPAND FEDERAL HATE CRIMES LAW TO INCLUDE SEXUAL ORIENTATION. REPUBLICANS OBJECTED, ARGUING THAT THE BILL AMOUNTS TO "THOUGHT CRIMES" LEGISLATION. THEY SAY IT COULD FACE LEGAL CHALLENGES. PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS PROMISED TO SIGN THE BILL INTO LAW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/9/09 REPORTED THE SPONSORS OF CALIFORNIA'S BAN ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE ARE APPEALING A FEDERAL JUDGE'S ORDER TO "TURN OVER" SOME INTERNAL CAMPAIGN RECORDS. IT'S PART OF A LAWSUIT BY A SAME-SEX COUPLE, SEEKING TO OVERTURN PROPOSITION-EIGHT. *PROTECT MARRIAGE*, IS THE NAME OF THE RELIGIOUS AND CONSERVATIVE GROUPS BEHIND THE PROPOSITION-- THEY SAY GIVING UP PRIVATE PAPERS VIOLATES THEIR FREE SPEECH. BUT THE JUDGE WANTS TO SEE THE E-MAILS AND LETTERS BETWEEN ORGANIZERS AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/3/09 REPORTED THE POLLS CLOSED MORE THAN AN HOUR AGO, AND WE'RE STILL WAITING TO HEAR IF MAINE HAS VOTED TO REPEAL OR AFFIRM A STATE LAW ALLOWING GAY MARRIAGE. THE LAW WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE LAST MAY - BUT NEVER TOOK EFFECT BECAUSE OF A PETITION DRIVE BY CONSERVATIVES. A VOTE TO UPHOLD THE LAW WOULD MARK THE FIRST TIME THAT THE ELECTORATE IN ANY STATE ENDORSED GAY MARRIAGE. A VOTE TO REPEAL, WOULD ALSO MARK THE FIRST TIME VOTERS HAVE TORPEDOED A GAY-MARRIAGE LAW ENACTED BY A LEGISLATURE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/11/09 REPORTED THAT A CHURCH PLAY ABOUT TO DEBUT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS RESURRECTING LOTS OF CONTROVERSY. THE PRODUCTION "CORPUS CHRISTI" DEPICTS JESUS AS GAY. THE CHURCH SAYS IT IS PUSHING THE ENVELOPE TO GET PEOPLE THINKING. THE PLAY TAKES PLACE IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS. IT'S THE 1950'S AND THE MAIN CHARACTER- JOSHUA, WHICH IS HEBREW FOR JESUS---IS A YOUNG GAY MAN OSTRICIZED BY THE PEOPLE OF HIS HOMETOWN. DIRECTOR NICK ARZEN WHO SAYS HE'S A GAY MAN FROM IOWA, BELIEVES THE PLAYWRIGHT CREATED SOME MODERN DAY PARALLELS. THE PRODUCTION IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE CHURCH OF THE FOOTHILLS, WHERE MEMBERS DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS BOTH PROGRESSIVE AND INCLUSIVE. THEY HOPE THE PLAY CHALLENGES PEOPLE OF FAITH. ORGANIZERS SAY THE PLAY IS NOT DESIGNED TO MAKE BELIEVERS THINK JESUS WAS GAY, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ONE KISSING SCENE BETWEEN JOSHUA AND JUDAS. THEY CONTEND IT'S DESIGNED TO OPEN A DIALOUGE AND ASK, "WHAT IF?"

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/20/09 REPORTED THAT A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT JUDGE IS TELLING THE WHITE HOUSE TO STOP DRAGGING ITS FEET - AND START GIVING THE WIFE OF A LESBIAN COURT EMPLOYEE - HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE. THE NINTH U-S CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS REISSUED THE RULING AFTER BENEFITS WERE DENIED TO THE SAN FRANCISCO WOMAN AGAIN. THE GOVERNMENT SAYS UNDER THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT - FEDERAL MARRIAGE BENEFITS DO NOT APPLY TO SAME SEX COUPLES. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SAYS THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT IS DISCRIMINATORY - BUT IS STILL USING IT AS AN ARGUMENT IN COURT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/20/09 REPORTED THE MISS CALIFORNIA U-S-A- PAGEANT TURNED POLITICAL WHEN LAST YEAR'S WINNER CARRIE PREJEAN SPOKE OUT AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE DURING THE CONTEST. EQUALITY CALIFORNIA - A GROUP ADVOCATING GAY MARRIAGE - IS NOW TAKING DIRECT AIM AGAINST THOSE VIEWS. THE GROUP WILL AIR AN AD DURING THIS YEAR'S PAGEANT

FEATURING A SAME SEX COUPLE FROM PASADENA AND THEIR DAUGHTER. PAGEANT ORGANIZERS OFFERED TO DONATE BOTH EQUALITY CALIFORNIA AND PREJEAN 30 SECONDS OF AIR TIME DURING THE CONTEST, BUT PREJEAN DECLINED. THIS SUNDAY WILL BE THE FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS THE PAGEANT WILL BE BROADCAST ON TELEVISION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/27/09 REPORTED ACTIVISTS ARE LAUNCHING A SIGNATURE DRIVE TO TRY AND REVERSE THE STATE'S BAN ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE. MEMBERS OF THE GROUP "RESTORE EQUALITY 2010 " FANNED OUT ACROSS SAN FRANCISCO AND THE STATE TODAY. THEY'RE GATHERING SIGNATURES TO TRY AND QUALIFY A BALLOT MEASURE IN 2010 TO REPEAL PROP 8. THE GROUP SAYS TODAY'S KICKOFF IS SYMBOLIC BECAUSE IT'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF OPENLY GAY SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR HARVEY MILK. THE STATE'S LARGEST SAME SEX RIGHTS GROUP, "EQUALITY CALIFORNIA" WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL 2012 TO GO BACK TO THE VOTERS. BUT GROUPS LIKE RESTORE EQUALITY 2010 SAY THE TIME TO STRIKE IS NOW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/1/09 REPORTED THAT TODAY IS THE 21-ST ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY-- AND PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE AND HERE IN THE BAY AREA MARKED THE DAY TRYING TO RAISE AWARENESS. ONE OF THE BIGGEST EVENTS WAS AT THE AIDS MEMORIAL GROVE IN GOLDEN GATE PARK-- WHICH FEATURED THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS. TODAY'S PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDED SPEAKERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO LOST LOVED ONES FROM AIDS. THE UNITED NATIONS ESTIMATES TWENTY-FIVE MILLION PEOPLE HAVE DIED FROM THE AIDS EPIDEMIC-- A NUMBER NOT LOST ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AIDS MEMORIAL GROVE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/1/09 REPORTED HISTORY IS IN THE MAKING TONIGHT IN CAMPBELL, WHERE THE CITY IS SEEING TWO "FIRSTS". THE CITY COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO SELECT "EVAN LOW" AS THE CITY'S MAYOR. AT THE AGE OF 26, THE CURRENT VICE MAYOR WOULD BE THE YOUNGEST ASIAN AMERICAN MAYOR IN THE COUNTRY. HE WOULD ALSO BE THE YOUNGEST OPENLY GAY MAYOR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/2/09 REPORTED MONTHS OF DELAYS AND ARM TWISTING DID NOT PAY OFF IN NEW YORK - WHERE LAWMAKERS HAVE REJECTED A BILL TO LEGALIZE GAY MARRIAGE. THE FINAL VOTE WAS 24-TO-38, A WIDER MARGIN OF FAILURE THAN EXPECTED. THE VOTE FOLLOWS LAST MONTH'S REFERENDUM IN MAINE, WHICH STRUCK DOWN A GAY MARRIAGE LAW BEFORE IT TOOK EFFECT. GAY MARRIAGE HAS BEEN LEGALIZED IN CONNECTICUT, IOWA, MASSACHUSETTS AND VERMONT. A NEW HAMPSHIRE LAW TAKES EFFECT ON JANUARY FIRST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/3/09 REPORTED A LOS ANGELES NEWCOMER TO POLITICS MAY BECOME THE NEXT SPEAKER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY - AND ITS FIRST OPENLY GAY SPEAKER. KAREN BASS IS LEAVING THAT POST - AND WANTS FRESHMAN DEMOCRAT JOHN PEREZ TO SUCCEED HER. SHE SAYS SHE HAS THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF DEMOCRATS IN THE ASSEMBLY. TWO OTHER LATINO LOS ANGELES DEMOCRATS - KEVIN DE LEON AND FELIPE FUENTES - HAD BEEN VYING FOR THE LEADERSHIP POSITION. FUENTES NOW SUPPORTS PEREZ - BUT DE LEON IS STILL A CANDIDATE. BASS HAS SAID SHE PLANS TO STEP DOWN BY EARLY 2010.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/3/09 REPORTED THAT BOLSTERING THE GAY COMMUNITY'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WAS THE FOCUS OF THIS WEEKEND'S 25TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE---BEING HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SAN FRANCISCO. HUNDREDS OF

OPENLY GAY--POLITICAL, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ARE GATHERED IN THE CITY. SOME ATTENDEES BEGAN THEIR VISIT BY VOLUNTEERING AT GLIDE CHURCH IN THE TENDERLOIN. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, THE MAYOR OF BERLIN, GERMANY, TWO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, THE HIGHEST-RANKING, OPENLY GAY OFFICIAL IN PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ADMINISTRATION. MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM IS EXPECTED TO HOST A WELCOMING RECEPTION TONIGHT AT THE CONFERENCE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/11/09 REPORTED SAME SEX MARRIAGE ADVOCATES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LOOK AT INTERNAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE PROP 8 CAMPAIGN AS THEY FIGHT TO OVERTURN THE STATE BAN ON GAY MARRIAGE. THE DISCLOSURE OF THE DOCUMENTS WAS SOUGHT BY TWO SAME SEX COUPLES WHO FILED A LAWSUIT TO OVERTURN PROP 8. THEY ALLEGED THE PROP 8 CAMPAIGN WAS ROOTED IN BIGOTRY AND THEREFORE WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, BUT TODAY, A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT RULED THAT TURNING OVER THE DOCUMENTS WOULD VIOLATE THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF THE CAMPAIGN ORGANIZERS.

EDUCATION

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED OF A DISCOVERY THAT COULD CHANGE THE BOOKS ON HUMAN EVOLUTION. AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF SCIENTISTS CLAIM THEY HAVE UNEARTHED THE OLDEST HOMINID SKELETON EVER FOUND. THE TEAM SAYS THE SKELETON -- NICKNAMED "ARDI" -- WAS FOUND IN ETHIOPIA AND IS MORE THAN 4-MILLION YEARS OLD. SCIENTISTS SAY THE DISCOVERY REVEALS THAT APES AND HUMANS WENT THEIR SEPERATE WAYS MUCH EARLIER THAN EXPECTED. IN FACT, RESEARCHERS BELEIVE HUMANS STARTED WALKING ON TWO FEET, SO THE MALES COULD BRING FOOD HOME TO SEDUCE THE WOMEN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ARE DRIVING U-C BERKELEY TO HIRE CONSULTANTS, TO HELP CUT TENS OF MILLIONS FROM THE CAMPUS BUDGET. BOSTON-BASED, BAIN AND COMPANY, WILL SPEND SIX MONTHS GUIDING BERKELEY LEADERS THROUGH A STUDY OF CAMPUS FINANCES. UC BERKELEY RECENTLY HAD ITS BUDGET CUT BY 150-MILLION DOLLARS. IT WILL SPEND THREE MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE STUDY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/6/09 REPORTED HUNDREDS OF KIDS IN SAN JOSE'S ALUM ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT, ONE OF THE BAY AREA'S POOREST SCHOOL DISTRICTS, FINALLY HAVE WHAT OTHERS TAKE FOR GRANTED-- LIKE HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING. THE RENOVATIONS HAPPENED OVER THE SUMMER, THANKS TO LOCAL VOTERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/9/09 REPORTED THE VALLEJO SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL HOLD TWO MEETINGS NEXT MONTH TO HELP THE BOARD DECIDE WHICH SCHOOLS IT SHOULD CLOSE TO MAKE ENDS MEET. THE DISTRICT NEEDS TO SAVE UP TO ONE-AND-A-HALF MILLION DOLLARS. IT CAN SAVE 700-THOUSAND BY CLOSING A HIGH SCHOOL, 400-THOUSAND BY CLOSING A MIDDLE SCHOOL AND 200-THOUSAND FOR AN ELEMENTARY. THE BOARDS DECISION IS NOVEMBER 16. THE MEETINGS WILL BE NEXT MONTH, BUT THE DATES HAVE NOT BEEN SET.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/20/09 REPORTED THAT THE RECESSION TOOK ITS TOLL ON COLLEGE STUDENTS THIS YEAR, WITH THE AVERAGE PRICE FOR COLLEGE TUITION RISING SHARPLY. TUITION AT FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC

COLLEGES SPIKED MORE THAN 6 PERCENT TO REACH AN AVERAGE OF 7-THOUSAND DOLLARS THIS FALL. THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE ROOM, BOARD AND OTHER EXPENSES. AT PRIVATE COLLEGES, TUITION ROSE MORE THAN FOUR PERCENT. STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA HAVE BEEN HIT ESPECIALLY HARD WITH TUITION HIKEs. THE C-S-U SYSTEM HIKEs TUITION BY ABOUT A THIRD WHILE THE U-C SYSTEM RAISEs TUITION BY MORE THAN 9-PERCENT THIS FALL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/5/09 REPORTED STATE BUDGET CUTS AT SAN FRANCISCO'S CITY COLLEGE ARE FORCING THE BOARD TO CANCEL ALL SUMMER SCHOOL CLASSES. THE SCHOOL HAS ALREADY HAD TO CUT 800 CLASSES FROM THE SCHEDULE THIS YEAR; NOW ANOTHER 900 WON'T BE AVAILABLE NEXT SUMMER. THE SCHOOL HAD ALREADY BEEN FORCED TO HOLD A FLEA MARKET LAST YEAR, AND HAS TRIED TO RAISE FUNDS BY ASKING DONORS TO SPONSOR CLASSES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/6/09 REPORTED THAT PAINTING WALLS AND DIGGING IN THE DIRT IS NOW PART OF THE CURRICULUM AT A SOUTH BAY HIGH SCHOOL. AS PART OF A *GREEN MAKEOVER,* SAN JOSE'S OVERFELT HIGH SCHOOL IS INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS AND USING THEM TO TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT ENERGY EFFICIENCY. AN ORGANIC GARDEN WILL PRODUCE VEGETABLES AND LESSONS ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. AND A MURAL WILL INSPIRE STUDENTS TO THINK ABOUT THEIR IMPACT ON THE NEXT GENERATION. THE UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX IS A PARTNER IN THE MAKEOVER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/12/09 REPORTED CALIFORNIANS ARE WORRIED THAT BUDGET CUTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION MAY KEEP THEIR KIDS OUT OF COLLEGE. A NEW STATEWIDE SURVEY BY THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA FOUND 57- PERCENT OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN 18 OR UNDER - ARE ALSO VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO COLLEGE. 65 PERCENT THINK IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO GET A COLLEGE DEGREE NOW THAN IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO. THE FINDINGS ARE BASED ON TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS WITH 25- HUNDRED CALIFORNIANS. THE MARGIN OF ERROR IS PLUS OR MINUS TWO PERCENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/12/09 REPORTED THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IS ROLLING OUT A NEW PLAN THAT WILL ASSIGN POINTS TO SCHOOLS FOR FUNDING. FOR EXAMPLE - MAKING PROGRESS IN CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAPS WOULD BE WORTH 30-POINTS. TURNING AROUND THE LOWEST-ACHIEVING SCHOOLS - OR HAVING A HIGH PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOLS IS WORTH 40 POINTS. IMPROVING TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL EFFECTIVENESS IS WORTH 58 POINTS. POINT TOTALS WOULD HELP SCHOOLS COMPETE FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/14/09 REPORTED OAKLAND HOSTED A DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT TODAY, AIMED AT GETTING MORE HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS BACK IN SCHOOL -- AND KEEPING THEM THERE UNTIL GRADUATION. ORGANIZERS SAY ROUGHLY ONE IN THREE STUDENTS DROPS OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL NATIONWIDE -- AND MOST OF THESE STUDENTS FACE A BLEAK FUTURE. DROPOUTS OFTEN WORK FOR MINIMUM WAGE AND RARELY ADVANCE IN THEIR JOBS. THEY'RE ALSO AT A MUCH HIGHER RISK OF ENDING UP IN PRISON. THE SUMMITT SOUGHT TO EXPLORE STRATEGIES LIKE PAIRING AT-RISK KIDS WITH ADULT ADVOCATES. STUDENT SPEAKERS ALSO SHARED THEIR OWN STORIES ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER DROPPING OUT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/16/09 REPORTED BAY AREA TEACHERS AND PARENTS WILL HOLD A TOWN HALL MEETING TONIGHT IN SAN FRANCISCO TO START OFF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK. IT'S BEING HOSTED BY THE

CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, WHICH SAYS IT WILL FIGHT ANY MORE CUTS TO EDUCATION. 17 BILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN TRIMMED FROM SCHOOL BUDGETS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/2/09 REPORTED STUDENTS HOPING TO ATTEND U-C CAMPUSES IN THE FALL ARE GETTING A LITTLE EXTRA TIME TO APPLY; THEY HAVE UNTIL 11:59 TONIGHT TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS. THE DEADLINE WAS EXTENDED, BECAUSE A COMPUTER GLITCH PREVENTED SOME PEOPLE FROM APPLYING ONLINE. THE U-C SYSTEM IS NOT SURE HOW MANY STUDENTS MAY HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY THE GLITCH. SO FAR, APPLICATIONS ARE UP BY ALMOST THREE THOUSAND COMPARED TO LAST YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/2/09 REPORTED SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERVISORS WILL ALLOW SEVERAL MIDDLE SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP AND TEST THEIR OWN WAYS TO PREVENTING TRUANCY. FOUR OR FIVE HIGH TRUANCY SCHOOLS WILL BEGIN THE PROGRAM IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY. PROGRESS WILL BE CHECKED AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. TRUANCY TEAMS WILL BE MADE UP OF A TEACHER - ADMINISTRATOR - PARENTS - COMMUNITY PARTNERS - AND LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS. THEY WILL SHARE INFORMATION - AND RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR OTHER SCHOOLS. IDEAS MAY INCLUDE SENDING TEXT MESSAGES TO ABSENT STUDENTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/7/09 REPORTED THAT THE STATE'S COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS SAY CALIFORNIA'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IS IN JEOPARDY AND THEY ARE URGING LAWMAKERS FOR MORE FUNDING. AT A HEARING IN SACRAMENTO TODAY HEADS OF THE U-C-, C-S-U- AND CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEMS PLEADED FOR MORE STATE FUNDS. THE SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN RAISING FEES, TRIGGERING PROTESTS ACROSS STATE CAMPUSES. MEANTIME - CRITICS SAY THE SCHOOL'S EXECUTIVES NEED TO TAKE PAY CUTS, BUT U-C- PRESIDENT MARK YUDOF SAYS SALARIES AREN'T ABOVE NORMAL. THE U-C- SYSTEMS IS REQUESTING AN ADDITIONAL 913 MILLION DOLLARS IN STATE FUNDING FOR NEXT YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/8/09 REPORTED THE MOUNT DIABLO SCHOOL BOARD IS GETTING READY TO CONSIDER 17 MILLION DOLLARS IN BUDGET CUTS - INCLUDING PLANS TO SHUT DOWN SCHOOLS BEGINNING IN AUGUST OF 2011. THE DISTRICT MAY ALSO CUT A MILLION DOLLARS FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION, REDUCE LIBRARY SERVICES AND CUT THE BUDGET FOR PAPER AND OTHER SUPPLIES. THE BOARD PLANS TO BEGIN VOTING ON THE CUTS NEXT MONTH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/11/09 REPORTED THE WEEK-LONG STUDENT PROTEST INSIDE U-C BERKELEY'S WHEELER HALL -- ENDED WITH A WAKE-UP CALL THIS MORNING. EARLY THIS MORNING, OFFICERS ENTERED THE HALL AND TOOK THE SITTING-IN SLEEPING -IN PROTESTERS INTO CUSTODY. THEY HAD BEEN INSIDE THE BUILDING SINCE MONDAY -- HOLDING STUDY SESSIONS, TEACH-INS AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES. PLANS FOR A HIP-HOP CONCERT IN THE BUILDING TONIGHT SPURRED UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS TO HAVE THE PROTESTORS REMOVED. THE PROTESTERS WERE BOOKED INTO SANTA RITA JAIL FOR MISDEMEANER TRESPASSING. TODAY'S ARRESTS WERE THE LATEST EPISODE IN A STRING OF PROTESTS ON CAMPUS, ABOUT FEE HIKES AND BUDGET CUTS RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE U-C BOARD OF REGENTS.

ENVIRONMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED A SERIES OF EARTHQUAKES ROCKED THE EASTERN SIERRA EARLY TODAY. THE LARGEST HAD A MAGNITUDE OF FIVE POINT-ONE, WITH AN EPICENTER SOUTHEAST OF THE TOWN OF LONE PINE. THAT WAS AT THREE A-M. THEN, OVER THE NEXT FIVE-HOURS, MORE THAN FOUR-DOZEN SMALLER AFTERSHOCKS RUMBLED THROUGH...MEASURING NO MORE THAN THREE-POINT-FIVE. THE INYO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAYS THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF INJURIES OR DAMAGE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED THAT HERE IN THE BAY AREA, RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR THOSE EFFECTED BY THE TSUNAMI CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED. THE CROSSROAD CALVARY CHAPEL ON SAN JOSE'S EAST SIDE IS JUST ONE OF MANY DROP-OFF SITES. MEMBERS OF THE MOSTLY-SAMOAN CONGREGATION SAY THEY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN SAMOA AND ARE STUNNED AT JUST HOW WIDESPREAD THEIR LOSSES ARE. THEY'VE ALSO BEEN MOVED BY HOW GENEROUS PEOPLE HERE HAVE BEEN. PEOPLE AT THE CHURCH SAY THE GREATEST NEED IS FOR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT EVACUATIONS ARE UNDERWAY IN THE PHILIPPINES - AS THE SECOND TYPHOON IN LESS THAN A WEEK, APPROACHES. TYPHOON 'PARMA' IS HEADED DIRECTLY FOR THE NORTHERN PHILIPPINES, AND WILL MAKE LANDFALL TOMORROW, UNLESS IT CHANGES COURSE. THE AREA IS STILL SATURATED FROM A TYPHOON THAT STRUCK EARLIER THIS WEEK. ALMOST 300 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE PHILIPPINES BY THE FLOODING AND MUDSLIDES CAUSED BY THE STORM, WHICH AFFECTED THE HOMES OF MORE THAN TWO MILLION PEOPLE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED THAT INVESTIGATORS IN VALLEJO ARE STILL TRYING TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF A FATAL 2-ALARM HOUSE FIRE THAT KILLED TWO WOMEN. THE FIRE HAPPENED AROUND 2 SATURDAY MORNING AT A HOME ON JORDAN STREET NEXT TO INTERSTATE 80. FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS LEFT FLOWERS TODAY IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS. THE WOMEN ARE IDENTIFIED AS 85-YEAR-OLD CLARENZA BURCH AND 57-YEAR-OLD GERALDINE BURCH. THE CORONER'S OFFICE HAS YET TO DETERMINE THEIR RELATIONSHIP. NEIGHBORS CRITICIZE THE FIREFIGHTERS WHO RESPONDED, EVEN SUGGESTING THAT THEY WEREN'T DOING THEIR JOBS ONCE THEY ARRIVED. VALLEJO FIRE SPOKESMAN BILL TWEEDY SAYS THE ORIGINAL FIRE CALL STATED THE POSSIBILITY OF PEOPLE BEING TRAPPED INSIDE THE HOME. TWEEDY CONFIRMS THAT POLICE ARRIVED BEFORE FIREFIGHTERS, WHO ARRIVED SEVEN MINUTES AFTER THE CALL. THE HOUSE IS LOCATED IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH THE NEAREST FIRE STATION HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED THE SO-CALLED *SHEEP FIRE* THAT'S BURNED SOME SEVEN-THOUSAND ACRES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST... TONIGHT IS ABOUT 20-PERCENT CONTAINED. MILD WINDS AND COOL TEMPERATURES HELPED. GUSTS HAD REACHED 50 MILES-AN-HOUR AFTER THE FIRE BROKE-OUT SATURDAY. FLAMES HAVE DESTROYED THREE OR FOUR HOMES AND SEVERAL OUT-BUILDINGS IN REMOTE CANYONS BUT FIREFIGHTERS HAVE MANAGED TO KEEP THE FIRE OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF WRIGHTWOOD -- THE TOWN OF WRIGHTWOOD REMAINS UNDER A MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER. THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE IS STILL NOT KNOWN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/1/09 REPORTED THE TANKER THAT SPILLED 400 TO 800 GALLONS OF OIL INTO SAN FRANCISCO BAY TWO DAYS AGO

NOT ONLY HARMED THE WATER AND THE ALAMEDA SHORELINE, BUT ALSO HURT WILDLIFE. THIRTY BIRDS COVERED WITH OIL HAVE BEEN FOUND ALIVE, AND EXPERTS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO REMOVE THE OIL FROM THE BIRDS' FEATHERS. STAFF FROM THE U-C DAVIS WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER AND THE OILED WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK ARE CARINNG FOR THE BIRDS. THE CENTER CLAIMS TO PROVIDE THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED CARE FOR OILED WILDLIFE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/7/09 REPORTED THE COAST GUARD IS WARNING PEOPLE ... TO STAY OUT OF THE OCEAN THIS WEEKEND BECAUSE OF DANGEROUS SURF. A HAZARDOUS SEAS WARNING AND A HIGH SURF ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT UNTIL SUNDAY MORNING ALONG THE CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTLINE. THE WAVES DON'T LOOK TOO MENACING IN THESE PICTURES BUT SWELLS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH AS HIGH AS 19 FEET - AND DANGEROUS RIP CURRENTS ARE EXPECTED AS WELL. AUTHORITIES SAY PEOPLE STAY AWAY FROM THE BEACH ALTOGETHER. FISHERMEN AND OTHER BOATERS ARE ALSO BEING ENCOURAGED TO STAY ASHORE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/9/09 REPORTED THAT TROPICAL STORM 'IDA' IS MAKING A MESS OF THE NORTHERN GULF COAST TONIGHT. THE RARE, LATE SEASON STORM MOVED ASHORE A FEW HOURS AGO BRINGING WITH IT HEAVY RAIN, HIGH SURF AND FLOODING. A TROPICAL STORM WARNING IS NOW IN EFFECT FROM LOUISIANA TO THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE. AND EVEN THOUGH IDA IS NO LONGER SWIRLING AT HURRICANE FORCE, EVACUATION OF LOW LYING AREAS IS BEING ENCOURAGED. AND IDA COULD HAVE AN IMPACT EVEN HERE AT HOME, FAR FROM THE EYE OF THE STORM. SOME OIL COMPANIES HAVE EVACUATED WORKERS FROM THE GULF - WHICH COULD AFFECT OIL PRODUCTION GAS PRICES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/10/09 REPORTED CALTRANS TODAY KICKED OFF A STATEWIDE RECYCLING EFFORT. THE AGENCY IS TEAMING UP WITH THE 'AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL' AND 'KEEP CALIFORNIA BEAUTIFUL' TO PROVIDE RECYCLING BINS AT VARIOUS REST STOPS ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS. THE FIRST BIN WAS PLACED AT THE H. DANA BOWERS ROADSIDE REST AREA IN MARIN COUNTY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/26/09 REPORTED THAT THERE IS A 'SPARE THE AIR' WARNING IN THE BAY AREA. IT'S ILLEGAL TO BURN WOOD OR FIRE LOGS TODAY, UNLESS IT'S YOUR ONLY SOURCE OF HEAT. THE AIR QUALITY IN THE BAY AREA IS FORECAST TO BE UNHEALTHY. FIRST-TIME VIOLATORS WILL RECEIVE A WARNING. THE SECOND VIOLATION COSTS 400-DOLLARS AND THE AMOUNT INCREASES WITH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/2/09 REPORTED DEVELOPERS INVOLVED IN NEW BUILDING PROJECTS IN CALIFORNIA MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER GLOBAL WARMING. THE BAY AREA'S AIR POLLUTION DISTRICT IS PROPOSING THE NATION'S FIRST EVER GUIDELINES FOR MONITORING A PROJECT'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARD GLOBAL WARMING. THE PLAN WILL REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES BY ACCOUNTING FOR ENERGY AND VEHICLE USE - AS WELL AS C-02 EMISSIONS. DEVELOPERS OPPOSING THE PLAN SAY IT COULD INHIBIT SMART, REGIONAL GROWTH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/7/09 REPORTED THAT THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TODAY DECLARED THERE IS SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT GLOBAL WARMING FROM GREENHOUSE GASES IS A THREAT TO AMERICA'S HEALTH. THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN IMPOSING THE FIRST FEDERAL LIMITS ON POLLUTION FROM CARS AND FACTORIES -- AND IT COMES AS THE LARGEST CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMITT IN HISTORY GETS UNDERWAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/14/09 REPORTED A BAY AREA BOTANIST GOT THE THRILL OF HIS CAREER LAST MONTH, WHEN HE DISCOVERED SOMETHING *EXTINCT*-- WAS ACTUALLY THRIVING. IT WASN'T QUITE AS EXCITING AS SEEING A DINOSAUR, BUT *FRANCISCAN MANZANITA* WASN'T A BAD RUNNER-UP. THIS PARTICULAR SHRUB HASN'T BEEN SEEN GROWING WILD SINCE THE 1940S, BUT THE BOTANIST SPOTTED SOME GROWING NEAR THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. ODDLY ENOUGH, STATE LAW DOESN'T PROTECT *EXTINCT* SPECIES, SO THE *WILD EQUITY INSTITUTE* IS FILING PAPERS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/15/09 REPORTED MORE AMERICANS BELIEVE STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING -WILL HELP - NOT HURT, THE AMERICAN ECONOMY. AN ASSOCIATED PRESS - STANFORD UNIVERSITY POLL SHOWS 40- PERCENT SAID U-S ACTION TO SLOW GLOBAL WARMING IN THE FUTURE WOULD CREATE JOBS; 23- PERCENT SAID IT WOULD RESULT IN FEWER JOBS. AMERICAN LAWMAKERS PLAN TO TAKE THOSE NUMBERS TO THE CLIMATE CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN THIS WEEK.

GOVERNMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS HEALTH CARE REFORM REMAINS THE PRESIDENT'S TOP PRIORITY. IN THE ROSE GARDEN TODAY, THE PRESIDENT SPOKE TO 150 MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS FROM ALL 50 STATES. HE IS SEEKING THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT AS HIS HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM FACES STRONG OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS. TODAY, THE PRESIDENT SAID DOCTORS AND NURSES HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE, AND CAN HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE HEALTH CARE REFORM PACKAGE. THE PRESIDENT SAYS THEIR SUPPORT CAN HELP PASS HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CAP PATIENTS' OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES -- AND REIN IN INSURANCE COSTS. HE SAYS DOCTORS AND NURSES ARE THE MOST CREDIBLE EXPERTS ON AMERICAN HEALTHCARE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED THE U-S SUPREME COURT STARTED ITS NEW TERM TODAY...WITH A NEW MEMBER, JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR. SHE QUESTIONED ATTORNEYS ARGUING A CASE BEFORE THE COURT. ONE CLOSELY-WATCHED UPCOMING CASE WILL BE WHETHER STATE AND LOCAL LAWS OUTLAWING GUNS ARE CONSTITUTIONAL. TODAY THE COURT CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE RELEASE OF THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS FROM 23-LAWSUITS AGAINST SIX CONNECTICUT PRIESTS ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAD ASKED THAT THE PAPERS REMAIN SEALED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/6/09 REPORTED THAT WITH A NEW SUPREME COURT SESSION UNDERWAY, JUSTICES ARE DEALING WITH THE ISSUE OF FREE SPEECH, AND HOW IT APPLIES TO GRAPHIC IMAGES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WANTS THE COURT TO REINSTATE A 10-YEAR-OLD LAW THAT BANS THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF DOG FIGHTING VIDEOS. THE GOVERNMENT ARGUES THAT VIDEOS SHOWING ANIMAL CRUELTY SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY - OUTSIDE OF ANY PROTECTION FROM THE CONSTITUTION. A DECISION IN THE CASE IS EXPECTED BY SPRING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/7/09 REPORTED SUNDAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN OR VETO HUNDREDS OF BILLS...AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IS A MAJOR OVERHAUL OF THE STATE'S WATER SYSTEM. THE GOVERNOR HAS DEMANDED A WATER AGREEMENT BEFORE HE'LL TAKE ACTION ON THE 700 BILLS ON HIS DESK. THE GOAL IS TO PROTECT THE SACRAMENTO-

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER DELTA. THE GOVERNOR WANTS TO SET CONSERVATION GOALS AND IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE. LEGISLATIVE LEADERS SAY THEY ARE CLOSE TO A DEAL, BUT MANY ARE FRUSTRATED OVER THE GOVERNOR'S VETO THREAT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/8/09 REPORTED A KEY VOTE IN THE HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL PLAN IS SET FOR NEXT WEEK. IT'S THE FINAL VOTE FOR THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID SAYS THEY WILL VOTE ON A 10-YEAR, 829-BILLION PROPOSAL THAT COVERS MOST AMERICANS WHILE REDUCING THE DEFICIT. THE DECISION COMES A DAY AFTER THE NON-PARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE SAID THE DRAFT BILL WOULD REDUCE THE BUDGET DEFICIT, BY 81-BILLION DOLLARS OVER 10 YEARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED THAT IN HIS RESIGNATION LETTER, ATTORNEY GENERAL JERRY BROWN'S COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR APOLOGIZED FOR LETTING HIM DOWN. BROWN HAD NO COMMENT TODAY AFTER SCOTT GERBER SUBMITTED THE LETTER, APOLOGIZING FOR SECRETLY RECORDING CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN BROWN AND REPORTERS. GERBER CALLED IT AN ERROR IN JUDGMENT. BROWN SAYS HE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE RECORDINGS. UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW IT'S ILLEGAL TO RECORD A PHONE CONVERSATION UNLESS EVERYONE INVOLVED CONSENTS TO THE TAPING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED THAT CALIFORNIA'S WATER LEGISLATION REMAINS AT A STANDSTILL TODAY. BOTH THE STATE SENATE AND THE ASSEMBLY CONVENED IN SACRAMENTO, TO START DEBATE ON EIGHT BILLS TO REFORM CALIFORNIA'S OUTDATED WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. BUT THERE'S NO ASSURANCE THE LEGISLATION WILL PASS. ONE BILL MANDATES CONSUMERS TO REDUCE THEIR WATER CONSUMPTION BY 20 PERCENT AND IS SUPPORTED BY LAWMAKERS FROM LOS ANGELES. BUT OTHERS SAY THE BILL WOULD EXEMPT L-A FROM THE FULL 20 PERCENT CUT. ALSO AT ISSUE IS A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR WATER BOND PROPOSAL TO PAY FOR IMPLEMENTING ANY CHANGES. BUT THE BOND WOULD REQUIRE A CHALLENGING TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA TODAY MET WITH HIS ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD WITH THE GOAL OF CREATING MORE JOBS. THE PRESIDENT SAYS THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN "PULLED BACK FROM THE BRINK," BUT STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO. THE REAL TEST NOW, HE SAYS, IS TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET THE MILLIONS OF UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS BACK TO WORK. THE MEETING INCLUDED ECONOMISTS, INDUSTRY LEADERS, AND FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/4/09 REPORTED THAT THERE'S FINALLY A PLAN IN PLACE TO UPGRADE CALIFORNIA'S VAST WATER SYSTEM. THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE TODAY OFFERED A PLAN TO PROTECT THE DELTA AND PROVIDE WATER TO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. NOW, VOTERS WILL ASKED TO APPROVE A BOND OF NEARLY ELEVEN AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS TO HELP PAY FOR IT. IT WAS A RARE SHOW OF BI-PARTISANSHIP, AS REFLECTED IN A SELF-CONGRATULATORY NEWS CONFERENCE IN SACRAMENTO TODAY. GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER LAUDED THE PLAN TO FIX THE STATE'S ANTIQUATED WATER SYSTEM FOR A BOOMING POPULATION. THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES NEW DAMS AND THE "PERIPHERAL CANAL" TO DIVERT WATER TO THE SOUTH, WILL REACH 40 BILLION DOLLARS, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/4/09 REPORTED CALIFORNIA'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI WILL BE STEPPING DOWN FROM THAT OFFICE TOMORROW, AS HE SIMULTANEOUSLY STEPS INTO HIS NEW ROLE AS THE

REPRESENTATIVE OF CALIFORNIA'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. GARAMEDI BEAT OUT FOUR OTHER OPPONENTS IN TUESDAY'S SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE SEAT VACATED BY ELLEN TAUSCHER. BUT THERE WILL BE LITTLE TIME TO CELEBRATE FOR THE VETERAN DEMOCRAT -- HE IS EXPECTED TO BE SWORN IN ON THE HOUSE FLOOR TOMORROW. MEANTIME -- VOTERS IN VALLEJO PASSED "MEASURE U" TO EXPAND UTILITY TAXES TO INCLUDE TEXT MESSAGES - PRIVATE PHONE NETWORKS - AND OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS. VOTERS IN WALNUT CREEK SAID "YES" TO OPENING THE DOORS TO A NEW 92-THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT NEIMAN MARCUS STORE IN THE CITY. COMING UP, NBC BAY AREA'S POLITICAL ANALYST LARRY GERSTON WILL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT ALL OF THE STANDOUT ISSUES FROM TUESDAY ELECTIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/8/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA HOPES HE'S FIGURED OUT A WAY TO KICK-START THE NATION'S JOB MARKET. DURING A SPEECH IN WASHINGTON, THE PRESIDENT PROPOSED TAX BREAKS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR ALMOST TWO THIRDS OF ALL NEW HIRING IN THE COUNTRY. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE SUPPORTS USING MONEY LEFT OVER FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S BANK BAILOUT TO INCREASE LENDING TO SMALL BUSINESSES. THE ADMINISTRATION'S GOAL IS TO BRING THE NATION'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TO BELOW TEN PERCENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/8/09 REPORTED VOTERS IN MASSACHUSETTS ARE GOING TO THE POLLS TODAY TO SELECT A REPLACEMENT FOR THE LATE SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY. OFFICIALS EXPECT 10 TO 25 PERCENT OF THE FOUR POINT ONE MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS TO CAST BALLOTS IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION. POLLS CLOSED AT EIGHT TONIGHT. FOUR DEMOCRATS AND TWO REPUBLICANS ARE RUNNING. THE TOP REPUBLICAN AND TOP DEMOCRAT FROM TODAY'S VOTE - MOVE ON TO A GENERAL ELECTION JANUARY 19TH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/10/09 REPORTED THAT IN WASHINGTON TODAY, A DEMOCRAT AND A REPUBLICAN PITCHED A NEW IDEA AIMED AT MOVING A HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL FORWARD. THE PLAN IS TO LET COMPANIES ISSUE VOUCHERS TO WORKERS SO THEY CAN SHOP AROUND FOR A CHEAPER HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN THAN THEIR EMPLOYERS OFFER. THE COMPANY GETS A TAX BREAK - AND WORKERS CAN POCKET THE CHANGE. MEANWHILE, PEOPLE OVER 55 WOULD HAVE A CHOICE TO BUY INTO MEDICARE EARLY. SO FAR, THE PLAN DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SOOTHING DIVISIONS. ANOTHER IDEA BEING PITCHED BY THE REPUBLICAN-DEMOCRAT TEAM IS TO ALLOW AMERICAN DRUG COMPANIES TO IMPORT FDA-APPROVED DRUGS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES -- WHERE THEY'RE CHEAPER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/15/09 REPORTED FOUR NONPROFIT GROUPS ASKED A STATE COURT TODAY TO ORDER GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER TO GIVE BACK MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. LAST JULY, THE GOVERNOR USED A LINE ITEM VETO TO DELETE NEARLY HALF A BILLION DOLLARS IN SPENDING AS THE STATE CLOSED A 24 BILLION DOLLAR BUDGET DEFICIT. SOME OF THOSE CUTS INVOLVED PROGRAMS FOR THE POOR AND THE DISABLED. LAWYERS FOR THOSE GROUPS ARGUE THE GOVERNOR DID NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE CUTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/15/09 REPORTED MEMBERS OF WASHINGTON D-C'S CITY COUNCIL TODAY VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO LEGALIZE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. THAT REVERSES THE RECENT TREND IN WHICH THE STATES OF MAINE, NEW YORK, AND NEW JERSEY VOTED DOWN GAY MARRIAGE PROPOSALS. SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN RALLYING STRONGLY FOR THE LAW, WHICH COULD ALLOW SAME-SEX COUPLES TO MARRY AS EARLY AS MARCH. CONGRESS HAS FINAL SAY

OVER WASHINGTON'S LAWS, BUT DEMOCRATIC LEADERS HAVE INDICATED THEY WON'T INTERVENE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/16/09 REPORTED PRESIDENT OBAMA MET WITH NEBRASKA SENATOR BEN NELSON, WHO SAYS HE WANTS TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS ON ABORTION COVERAGE BEFORE HE'S WILLING TO VOTE FOR THE SENATE'S VERSION OF HEALTH CARE REFORM. AND REPUBLICANS SLOWED DOWN THE PROCESS BY INSISTING THAT A LENGTHY DEMOCRATIC AMENDMENT BE READ ALOUD -- WHICH LED TO THE AMENDMENT BEING WITHDRAWN. AS THE DEBATE DRAGS ON, A NEW POLL FINDS A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS NOW CONCERNED HEALTH CARE WILL COST EVEN MORE -- THAT'S THE REPUBLICAN MESSAGE. A SENATE VOTE COULD COME AS SOON AS DEMOCRATS THINK THEY HAVE THEIR 60 VOTES FOR PASSAGE.

HEALTH/NUTRITION & DISEASE

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED A NEW STUDY REVEALS AMERICANS ARE OVERDOSING MORE OFTEN FROM DRUGS YOU'D GET FROM A DOCTOR, THAN A DEALER. THE NUMBER OF DEADLY OVERDOSES FROM PAINKILLERS -- SUCH AS METHADONE, CODEINE AND MORPHINE -- HAS TRIPLED SINCE 1999. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS. IN 2006, NEARLY 14-THOUSAND PEOPLE DIED FROM OPIOID PAINKILLER OVERDOSES. PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSES HAVE NOW SURPASSED OVERDOSES ON ILLEGAL DRUGS, LIKE HEROIN AND COCAINE. THE REPORT ALSO FOUND 35- TO 54-YEAR-OLDS ARE ALSO MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM POISONINGS THAN CAR CRASHES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT C-V-S PLANS TO GIVE FREE FLU SHOTS TO THE UNEMPLOYED. STARTING MONDAY...THE COMPANY WILL BEGIN GIVING OUT THE VOUCHERS...WHICH CAN BE REDEEMED AT C-V-S PHARMACIES THAT ARE HOLDING FLU SHOT CLINICS. C-V-S IS PROVIDING 100-THOUSAND VOUCHERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYEED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT DESPITE THE DIFFICULT ECONOMY, ANOTHER NEW HOSPITAL OPENED IT'S DOORS TODAY...AT LEAST TO THE MEDIA. THE NEW EL CAMINO HOSPITAL FACILITY COST MORE THAN 480 MILLION DOLLARS TO COMPLETE. THE NEW ADDITION CONTAINS HUNDREDS OF ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL BEDS. THE WHOLE PLACE IS COMPLETELY WIRELESS WITH BUILT IN TRANSLATORS IN ALMOST EVERY LANGUAGE. THE HOSPITAL PLANS TO USE ROBOTS TO DELIVER MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND MEALS TO PATIENTS. EL CAMINO IS ONE OF SEVERAL HOSPITALS BUILDING NEW FACILITIES IN THE BAY AREA -- OTHERS INCLUDE MILLS-PENINSULA AND JOHN MUIR. COMBINED -- THE COST IS WELL OVER A BILLION DOLLARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL ESTIMATES THAT AUTISM NOW AFFECTS 1 IN 91 AMERICAN CHILDREN, A JUMP FROM THE PREVIOUS ESTIMATE OF 1 IN 150 U-S KIDS. MEDICAL EXPERTS SAY BOYS ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN GIRLS TO BE DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. BUT EXPERTS ARE URGING CAUTION WHEN ANALYZING THE LATEST ESTIMATES, WHICH WERE BASED ON A PHONE SURVEY OF 78-THOUSAND PARENTS. THE C-D-C SAYS ANOTHER REASON FOR THE RISE COULD BE THAT THE DEFINITION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE AUTISM HAS EXPANDED IN THE LAST DECADE -- TO INCLUDE CHILDREN WHO ARE ONLY MILDLY AFFECTED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/6/09 REPORTED THE FIRST DOSES OF THE SWINE FLU VACCINE HAVE ARRIVED IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY. THE INITIAL SHIPMENT OF 7-THOUSAND DOSES OF THE NASAL SPRAY VACCINE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT SCHOOL CLINICS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. MORE THAN A HUNDRED-THOUSAND DOSES OF THE VACCINE IN BOTH THE SHOT AND NASAL SPRAY FORM ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF OCTOBER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED THAT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, HUNDREDS WAITED NOT JUST FOR THE SWINE FLU VACCINE, BUT FOR A SEASONAL FLU SHOT TOO -- SOMETHING THAT'S BECOMING AS HARD TO FIND AS THE " NINTENDO WEE" WAS LAST CHRISTMAS. VACCINE MANUFACTURERS SAY THEY WERE DELAYED IN GETTING ALL THE SEASONAL FLU VACCINE OUT BECAUSE THEY HAD TO PULL RESOURCES TO MEET GOVERNMENT DEMANDS TO PRODUCE THE H-1-N-1 VACCINE. MANY PRIVATE DOCTORS IN THE BAY AREA SAY THEY HAVE LITTLE OR NO SUPPLY AND PEDIATRICIANS SAY THEY CAN'T SEND THEIR YOUNG PATIENTS TO RETAIL STORES TO GET IT. WHILE ITS TRUE MOST RETAIL PHARMACIES WON'T VACCINATE KIDS UNDER NINE, MOST WE CONTACTED SAID THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE VACCINE FOR ADULTS. C-V-S PHARMACIES CANCELLED CLINICS BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE AND MOST WALGREENS STORES SAY THEY HAVE RUN OUT OF SEASONAL FLU SHOTS. A CLINIC WILL BE HELD AT THIS RIVERMARK SAFEWAY STORE IN SANTA CLARA... WEDNESDAY FROM NOON UNTIL FOUR BUT THE PHARMACIST SAYS THEY HAVE *VERY* LIMITED SUPPLY SO GET THERE EARLY. THE SEASONAL FLU USUALLY HITS HARD IN DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, SO IF YOU CAN FIND A SHOT...YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO BENEFIT FROM IT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED THAT SOLANO COUNTY STANDS TO RECEIVE ONE-AND-A-QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FUNDING TO FIGHT THE H-1-N-1 VIRUS. THE MONEY WILL GO TOWARDS DISTRIBUTING THE VACCINE AND SETTING UP CLINICS. BACK IN APRIL, THE COUNTY BOARD DECLARED A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY. SINCE THEN, SOLANO COUNTY HAS HAD THREE CONFIRMED DEATHS. THE BOARD WILL VOTE ON ACCEPTING THE FEDERAL MONEY TOMORROW MORNING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/3/09 REPORTED THAT AS RECENTLY AS A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS WERE CALLING THE SWINE FLU "A YOUNG PERSON'S DISEASE". BUT A CALIFORNIA STUDY, PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, SHOWS THE H-1-N-1 VIRUS CAN BE DEADLY AT ALL AGES, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE ELDERLY. FOR PATIENTS AGE 50 AND OLDER WHO ARE SICK ENOUGH TO BE HOSPITALIZED -- THE FATALITY RATE IS AS HIGH AS 20-PERCENT. THE AVERAGE TIME FROM THE ONSET OF FLU SYMPTOMS TO DEATH IS -- JUST 12-DAYS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/5/09 REPORTED THAT STATE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THE SLOW DELIVERIES OF THE SWINE FLU VACCINE WON'T LEAD TO A CATASTROPHIC SPREAD OF THE VIRUS. THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS TAPERING-OFF VACCINATING FOR THE SEASONAL FLU, AND RAMPING-UP DISTRIBUTION OF THE H-1-N-1 VACCINE. EXPERTS SAY THE DELAY IN GETTING THE VACCINE WILL CAUSE MORE ILLNESSES, BUT NOT A MASS OUTBREAK. 17-CALIFORNIA DEATHS WERE BLAMED ON THE VIRUS LAST WEEK ALONE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/13/09 REPORTED THAT LONG LINES ARE EXPECTED IN THE SOUTH BAY THIS WEEKEND AT SIX DIFFERENT VACCINATION CLINICS. ABOUT 89-THOUSAND DOSES OF SWING FLU VACCINE ARRIVED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY THIS WEEK AFTER THE COUNTY FACED A MAJOR

SHORTAGE. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO PREGNANT WOMEN, PEOPLE BETWEEN SIX MONTHS AND 24 YEARS OLD, AND PATIENTS WITH POOR IMMUNE SYSTEMS. THE "ALVISO HEALTH CENTER" - AND "GARDNER HEALTH CENTER" IN SAN JOSE WILL BE OPEN SATURDAY BETWEEN 9:00 AND 4:00. THE "VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS" IN GILROY, SAN JOSE AND SUNNYVALE WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 9:30 AND 3:30. ON SUNDAY, YOU CAN GO TO THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN SAN JOSE BETWEEN 9:30 AND 3:30.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/2/09 REPORTED CONTROVERSY OVER BREAST CANCER SCREENING IS TAKING CENTER STAGE ON CAPITOL HILL TODAY. A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSED NEW GUIDELINES, RECOMMENDING THAT WOMEN GET BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS LESS OFTEN AND LATER IN LIFE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/3/09 REPORTED SCIENTISTS CAN NOW USE TAXPAYER DOLLARS TO DO RESEARCH WITH 13 NEW BATCHES OF EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS. THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH SAY THE NEW LINES ARE THE FIRST OF MANY THAT COULD SOON BE AVAILABLE. THEY ARE REVIEWING ANOTHER 96 LINES TO SEE IF THEY ARE ETHICALLY APPROPRIATE TO USE. STEM CELL RESEARCH SLOWED WHEN PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH LIMITED IT TO ONLY LINES MADE BEFORE AUGUST OF 2001.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/7/09 REPORTED A NEW REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE SHOWS CANCER CASES CONTINUE TO DECLINE -- BUT THERE ARE SOME AREAS OF CONCERN. THE STUDY SHOWS CANCER DEATHS DECREASED ONE-POINT SIX PERCENT EACH YEAR, FROM 2001 TO 2006 MOSTLY BECAUSE OF EARLY TESTING FOR BREAST, PROSTATE, LUNG AND COLON CANCER. HOWEVER, CANCERS THAT ARE HARD TO SCREEN FOR, SUCH AS CANCER OF THE PANCREAS, LIVER OR ESOPHAGUS -- SHOWED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS OF CASES AND DEATHS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/9/09 REPORTED CONTRA COSTA COUNTY WILL HOLD WALK-IN FLU VACCINE CLINICS THROUGH THE END OF THE MONTH BEGINNING NEXT WEEK. CLINICS WILL BE SET UP AT 30 MUIR ROAD IN MARTINEZ, THE VETERAN'S BUILDING AT 186 EAST LELAND ROAD IN PITTSBURG, 256 24TH STREET IN RICHMOND, AND THE OLD LIBRARY BUILDING AT 952 MORAGA ROAD IN LAFAYETTE. THE CLINICS WILL BE HELD ON WEEKDAYS AT DIFFERENT TIMES, YOU CAN CHECK C-C- HEALTH DOT ORG FOR MORE DETAILS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/11/09 REPORTED PEOPLE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY HAVE ANOTHER SHOT AT GETTING THE SWINE FLU VACCINE THIS WEEKEND - BUT YOU CANNOT LINE-UP EXTRA-EARLY. THE COUNTY WILL NOT ALLOW PEOPLE TO LINE UP FOR THE 9-30 AM CLINIC SATURDAY - UNTIL 7:00 A.M. IN THE PAST - PEOPLE SHOWED UP AS EARLY AS 3:00 IN THE MORNING - OR EARLIER. THE COUNTY IS WORRIED LINING UP IN COLD AND RAINY WEATHER COULD MAKE PEOPLE SICK. THE COUNTY HAS NOT RUN OUT OF VACCINE AT MANY OF ITS OTHER CLINICS - AND YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND SHORTER LINES IF YOU COME AT NOON OR LATER.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS/SAFETY & SECURITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA SAYS IT'S (QUOTE) "A GOOD START." BUT HE ADDED THAT TODAY'S LANDMARK TALKS WITH IRAN ARE JUST THE BEGINNING. DIPLOMATS FROM SIX WORLD POWERS MET TODAY IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND. THE IRANIANS AGREED TO OPEN

THEIR NEWLY REVEALED NUCLEAR FACILITY TO U-N INSPECTORS. NOW IRAN MUST GRANT INSPECTORS ACCESS WITHIN TWO WEEKS. THE U-S ALSO WANTS IRAN TO SHUT DOWN PRODUCTION OF POTENTIAL ATOMIC BOMB FUEL. IN EXCHANGE, THE U-S WOULD FREEZE ANY PUSH FOR TOUGH ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/1/09 REPORTED THAT THERE IS CLEARLY IMPATIENCE IN THE UPPER MILITARY RANKS, OVER THE STATUS OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN. DURING A SPEECH IN LONDON TODAY, GENERAL STANLEY MCCHRYSTAL, WHO COMMANDS U-S FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN, EXPRESSED URGENCY IN DETERMINING A STRATEGY. HE REJECTED A SUGGESTION VOICED BY VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN, THAT FORCES BE SCALED-DOWN. MCCHRYSTAL WANTS 40-THOUSAND MORE TROOPS, BUT HE ADMITS THE HIGH NUMBER OF CIVILIAN DEATHS HAS HURT THE U-S CAUSE AMONG AFGHANIS. AFGHANIS HAVE ACCUSED THE U-S AND ITS ALLIES OF HEAVY-HANDED TACTICS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT NEW NUMBERS OUT OF INDONESIA PAINT A VERY GRIM PICTURE IN THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATION. THE UNITED NATIONS NOW ESTIMATES AT LEAST 11-HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE KILLED BY WEDNESDAY'S 7.6 MAGNITUDE QUAKE. RESCUE WORKERS ARE STILL SIFTING THROUGH THE RUBBLE OF HUNDREDS OF COLLAPSED BUILDINGS - HOPING TO FIND PEOPLE ALIVE MORE THAN 48 HOURS LATER. THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH MINISTRY SAYS NEARLY 3-THOUSAND PEOPLE MAY STILL BE TRAPPED. AMID THE DEVASTATION, THERE WAS A GLIMMER OF HOPE. EARLIER THIS MORNING, A TEENAGER WAS FOUND ALIVE AND WAS RESCUED FROM THE WRECKAGE OF A COLLAPSED COLLEGE BUILDING IN SUMATRA.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT THE PENTAGON SAYS AN AMERICAN SOLDIER HAS BEEN KILLED IN BAGHDAD. HE DIED YESTERDAY AFTER A MORTAR ATTACK. THE MILITARY SAYS THE INCIDENT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION. THE DEATH RAISES THE NUMBER OF U-S MILITARY WHO HAVE DIED IN THE IRAQ WAR, TO 4-THOUSAND-348.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/2/09 REPORTED THAT THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN PROMPTED AN URGENT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT OBAMA AND HIS TOP COMMANDER, ABOARD AIR FORCE-ONE. ARMY GENERAL STANLEY MCCHRYSTAL WAS SUMMONED FROM LONDON, WHERE YESTERDAY HE GAVE A SPEECH SAYING INSURGENTS ARE GAINING STRENGTH IN AFGHANISTAN. THE MEETING COMES AS THE PRESIDENT REVIEWS STRATEGY IN THE WAR...NOW IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR. MCCHRYSTAL SAYS WITHOUT MORE TROOPS, THE UNITED STATES COULD FAIL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 10/5/09 REPORTED A SUICIDE BOMBER DRESSED AS A SECURITY OFFICER ENTERED A U-N FOOD PROGRAM BUILDING IN PAKISTAN-- KILLING FIVE PEOPLE. CLOSED CIRCUIT VIDEO SHOWS THE MAN ENTERING THE BUILDING. THE BOMBER GAINED ACCESS INTO THE HEAVILY GUARDED UNITED NATION'S BUILDING-- AFTER HE ASKED TO USE THE BATHROOM. THE U-N'S SECRETARY GENERAL CONDEMNED THE ATTACK-- CALLING IT A HEINOUS CRIME AGAINST PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO HELP PAKISTANIS. THE UNITED NATIONS IS TEMPORARILY CLOSING ALL OF ITS OFFICES IN PAKISTAN-- BUT WILL STILL CONTINUE TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD, MEDICINE, AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SECURITY LAPSE IS NOW UNDERWAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA TODAY CONGRATULATED THE RE-ELECTED AFGHAN PRESIDENT BUT SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE KARZAI IMPROVE THINGS IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER WHAT

HE CALLED, "SOME DIFFICULT YEARS." THE PRESIDENT WARNED KARZAI THAT THE U-S WOULD HELP AFGHANISTAN BUT ONLY IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAKES SERIOUS EFFORTS TO TACKLE CORRUPTION. OBAMA MADE THE COMMENTS DURING A MEETING WITH SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER FREDRIK REINFELDT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED THAT AN EXPLOSION IN PAKISTAN KILLED AT LEAST 35 PEOPLE TODAY, AS INSURGENTS CONTINUE TO RETALIATE AGAINST AN ARMY OFFENSIVE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. THE BOMB BLAST HAPPENED NEAR A BANK AND HOTEL, IN AN AREA THAT IS HOME TO THE ARMY'S HEADQUARTERS. MANY OF THE VICTIMS WERE ELDERLY PAKISTANIS WHO HAD GONE TO THE BANK TO COLLECT THEIR PENSIONS. THE MILITARY SAID FOUR SOLDIERS WERE AMONG THOSE KILLED. PAKISTAN HAS BEEN HIT BY A WAVE OF MILITANT ATTACKS IN RECENT WEEKS AFTER THE MILITARY BEGAN AN OFFENSIVE IN A TALIBAN STRONGHOLD.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/2/09 REPORTED NORTH KOREA IS PRESSING TO RESTART TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE STATE MEDIA IS REPORTING THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO TRY AND SETTLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY IS THREATENING TO GO ITS OWN WAY IF BOTH SIDES DON'T END A SIX YEAR OLD STALEMATE. NORTH KOREA ABRUPTLY ENDED TALKS WITH U-S OFFICIALS AFTER THE UNITED NATIONS CRITICIZED THEIR NUCLEAR TEST AND MISSILE LAUNCHES. OFFICIALS SAY NORTH KOREA'S WILLINGNESS TO RESTART TALKS MAY INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE A NUCLEAR ARMS AGREEMENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/3/09 REPORTED AFGHANISTAN'S PRESIDENT VOWED TO CLEAN CORRUPTION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT- WHILE ACCEPTING HIS NEW TERM TODAY. HOWEVER HAMID KARZAI DID NOT SAY HOW HE WOULD USHER IN REFORMS. KARZAI SPOKE AFTER BEING DECLARED THE WINNER, AFTER HIS MAIN OPPONENT DROPPED OUT OF A PLANNED RUNOFF, BECAUSE HE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE A FAIR ELECTION. HE SAID HE NEEDS SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY -- AND WANTS TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO MAINTAIN THE GOODWILL OF THE U-S AND ITS ALLIES WHO ARE SUPPLYING TROOPS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/11/09 REPORTED GENERAL DAVID PATRAEUS SAID TODAY THAT A DECISION IS NEAR ON SENDING ADDITIONAL U-S TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN, BUT THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS ANY ANNOUNCEMENT IS WEEKS AWAY. AS PRESIDENT OBAMA MADE AN UNSCHEDULED VETERAN'S DAY VISIT TO THE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, SPECULATION GREW ABOUT A SO-CALLED MIDDLE GROUND PLAN; MORE TROOPS, BUT FEWER THAN COMMANDERS HAD ASKED FOR. A MIDDLE GROUND STRATEGY WOULD SEND UP TO 35-THOUSAND ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 11/13/09 REPORTED PRESIDENT OBAMA SPENT THE FIRST DAY OF HIS ASIA TRIP MEETING WITH JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER IN TOKYO, DISCUSSING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND OTHER ISSUES. BUT WHEN IT CAME TIME TO MEET THE PRESS, THE PRESIDENT WAS BOMBARDED BY QUESTIONS ABOUT AFGHANISTAN. ASKED WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG AS HE DECIDES HOW MANY MORE TROOPS TO SEND TO THE COMBAT ZONE, OBAMA SAID HE WANTS AN EXIT STRATEGY BUILT IN TO ANY NEW PLAN. IT'S THOUGHT THAT WHEN THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES HOW MANY TROOPS WILL BE SENT TO AFGHANISTAN, HE MIGHT ALSO LAY OUT A TIMETABLE FOR BRINGING THEM HOME.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/1/09 REPORTED THAT 30-THOUSAND MORE U-S TROOPS ARE HEADED TO AFGHANISTAN. THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THE NEW PLAN, IN A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED SPEECH TONIGHT. REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN FOR MORE TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN IS GETTING MIXED REVIEWS IN THE BAY AREA.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/7/09 REPORTED THE FIRST WAVE IN THE AFGHANISTAN TROOP SURGE IS UNDERWAY. THE PENTAGON ANNOUNCED TODAY, 16-THOUSAND U.S TROOPS HAVE GOTTEN THEIR ORDERS TO HEAD OVERSEAS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ADMIRAL MIKE MULLEN, VISITED TROOPS AT FORT CAMPBELL KENTUCKY AND CAMP LE-JEUNE ("lah-JOON") NORTH CAROLINA TODAY. HE TOLD TROOPS WHAT TO EXPECT. "ONE OF THE THINGS GENERAL MCCRYSTAL HAS DONE TO CHANGE HOW HE IS FOCUSING IS BASICALLY PUTTING THE FOCUS ON THE SECURITY OF THE POPULATION. SO THAT WILL BE THE NUMBER ONE CHALLENGE". LAST WEEK, PRESIDENT OBAMA APPROVED 30-THOUSAND ADDITIONAL TROOPS FOR THE 18-MONTH SURGE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/10/09 REPORTED PRESIDENT OBAMA SAYS U.S. TROOPS WILL BEGIN WITHDRAWING FROM AFGHANISTAN IN 2011. BUT HIS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAS A DIFFERENT TIMELINE IN MIND. IN KABUL TODAY - SECRETARY ROBERT GATES TOLD SENIOR AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICIALS THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE THEIR PARTNER FOR A LONG TIME. GATES SAID THE U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO THE DAY AFGHANIS CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR COUNTRY - BUT SAYS THE U-S WILL HAVE A PRESENCE BEYOND 2011.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/11/09 REPORTED NEW DETAILS TONIGHT ABOUT THE FIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS, ARRESTED IN PAKISTAN FOR ALLEGED TERRORIST LINKS. U.S OFFICIALS SAY THE VIRGINIA MEN WILL PROBABLY BE DEPORTED BACK TO THE U.S SOMETIME SOON AND THEY COULD FACE SERIOUS CHARGES, BASED ON NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ALLEGED EFFORTS TO JOIN THE JIHAD. PAKISTANI POLICE SAY THE GROUP WAS IN CONTACT WITH A TALIBAN OPERATIVE, WHO TOLD THEM TO TRAVEL TO AN AL-QAIDA STRONGHOLD NEAR THE AFGHANISTAN BORDER. INVESTIGATORS SAY THEY ARE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF THE MEN ARE NAIVE WANNA-BE'S OR REAL HOME GROWN TERRORISTS READY TO FIGHT FOR THE JIHAD.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 12/16/09 REPORTED THAT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, NEGOTIATORS FAILED TO SET NEW GOALS FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - OR FINANCING POORER COUNTRIES' EFFORTS TO COPE WITH LOOMING CLIMATE CHANGE. POORER NATIONS STALLED THE TALKS BY RESISTING WHAT THEY SAW AS EFFORTS BY RICH COUNTRIES TO IMPOSE DECISIONS ON THEM. THE LATEST DISPUTES HIGHLIGHT THE UNDERCURRENT OF DISTRUST DEVELOPING NATIONS HAVE FOR RICHER COUNTRIES AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT. TALKS ARE DUE TO END FRIDAY - WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA AND OTHER WORLD LEADERS APPROVING A FINAL AGREEMENT.